STOURBRIDGE
CHRONICLE

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Vandal attack

Residents wake up to unwelcome messages

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HAMMER-WIELDING RAIDERS HIT STORE

HAMMER-wielding robbers terrorised female members of staff as they raided a supermarket.

The two balaclava-clad men struck at a popular Spar neighbourhood shop in the Dudley borough at around 10.30pm on Monday.

by Louise Jew

Police said that at least one of the men was armed with a hammer with witnesses saying the raiders had targeted the wines and spirits section at the store in Wordsley Green, Wordsley, near Stourbridge.

The men left the store though a rear alleyway and it is believed they made off in a blue vehicle.

The store, which normally opens at 7am, remained closed during the course of the next morning with a sign in the window saying it was due to an incident the previous night. It re-opened just after 10am.

No-one was injured, but staff were left shaken.

They also said the same store had been the victim of other robberies earlier this year and in 2012.

Michelle Philpott, a medical counter assistant at County Pharmacy, said: "I am told there were two girls working in Spar about 10pm when men came in with balaclavas and hammers. The wines and spirits department looks to have been targeted."

Mandy Jones-Hackett, owner of a nearby hair salon said: "The shutters were down this morning.

"There were also two robberies there in the last year or two."

An assistant at Sentiments card shop, who did not wish to be named, said: "Apparently the men jumped the counter.

"The girls working there would have been very scared. The raiders trashed the place. You could see it was a mess."

West Midlands Police spokesman Brigg Ford said officers were investigating what had been taken in the raid.

Any witnesses should contact police on 101.

Authority numbers facing cut by a third

THE NUMBER of councillors in Dudley could be slashed by one third under proposals aimed at saving at least £300,000.

In total, 72 councillors have seats on the authority, with three members serving each ward across the borough. But proposals unveiled by the opposition Conservative group are aimed at slashing the number to 48 under the scheme.

Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks confirmed on Friday that he had instructed council officers to look into the measure to see if it is workable.

Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley said the reduction in the number of councillors would lead to 'greater transparency, greater democracy and ensure taxpayers are getting a good deal'.

He said more of the borough's 300,000 residents now communicate with councillors using emails, mobile phones and social media, which helps councillors get through the workload quicker.

Councillor Harley said extra money could be saved by reducing the number of elections held. He called on the Labour-controlled council to investigate the issue urgently and report back on the proposals to all members.

Tributes left at bus stop

FLORAL tributes have been laid at the scene where the body of a man was found at a bus stop. Police cordoned off Castle Hill in Dudley following the discovery outside the closed Dudley Hippodrome in the early hours of Sunday.

A bouquet of flowers was left at the scene as business managers nearby spoke of their shock at the discovery.

A card with the flowers reads: "Bryan, you will never be forgotten and always be a legend."

The man has not yet been name by police.

Time's up as £76,000 lottery deadline passes

A LOTTERY winner in Dudley has lost out on the chance to claim a prize totalling more than £70,000 after the time expired to cash their ticket.

National Lottery bosses announced last Wednesday that the £76,842 prize from the Lotto draw on March 20 has remained unclaimed.

The winning Lotto numbers were 4, 11, 14, 27, 43, 46 and the bonus ball was 42.

The money will now be distributed to good causes.

Couple tie knot old-fashioned way

Happy couple Steve Evans and Jo Lavender, who were married at the Black Country Living Museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley

MORE than 100 guests turned the clock back to Victorian times for a wedding with a difference at a popular open-air museum.

Black Country police officer Steve Evans married his bride Joanne Lavender in a spectacular ceremony at the Black Country Living Museum.

Around 50 of the guests were dressed in 19th century-style finery for the wedding, with the rest wearing the traditional Black Country outfits of flat caps and waistcoats. And instead of having a formal wedding reception at a plush hotel, they decided to have a good old-fashioned knees-up at the Bottle & Glass Inn in the museum village.

"We wanted to break every single rule in the book," said Steve, 42, from Coseley.

"We are all proper Black Country folk. They have done weddings at the museum before, but this is one of the biggest they have ever done."

The vows were taken in the museum's school house, and supper came courtesy of the museum's traditional fish and chip shop. Guests also took part in a sing-along at the pub, accompanied by an old-time pianist who handed out the song sheets.

Later in the evening the party assembled in the courtyard for a live band, headed by Joanne's brother.

With Steve a keen Wolves fan, while Joanne, 37, supports West Bromwich Albion their cake reflected their allegiances. "We have had a special cake made, with the one half in Albion colours, and the other half in Wolves gold-and-black," added Steve.

Steve and Jo with their wedding cake and football cake

Five are released over club stabbing

FIVE people arrested on suspicion of attempted murder after a man was stabbed during a fight outside a nightclub have all been released without charge, it has been revealed.

West Midlands Police issued a fresh appeal for information following the attack outside The Arena nightclub in Stourbridge in the early hours of June 23.

Three people were taken to hospital for treatment – one for stab injuries – after the fight outside the nightclub, formerly The Picture House, in Hagley Road. Police arrested five people on suspicion of attempted murder.

The men – a 31-year-old from Erdington, a 23-year-old from Wolverhampton, a 25-year-old of no fixed address, a 28-year-old from London and a 21-year-old from Milton Keynes – were given bail as officers carried out an investigation. Last Thursday, police said they had all been released without charge.

Only a week after the stabbing, a man was attacked with a shovel by a group of three men near the nightclub, outside the Swan Inn. Three men – a 43-year-old from Wordsley, a 19-year-old from Brierley Hill and a 20-year-old from Kingswinford – were arrested on suspicion of assault.

Diesel spills across road

HUNDREDS of litres of diesel spilled across a road after a lorry ruptured a fuel tank.

Fire crews from Brierley Hill were forced to close Oak Street, off the busy Quarry Bank High Street, in order to contain the spill after 500 litres leaked out of the vehicle on Monday afternoon.

The lorry was reversing out of the road back onto the high street but the driver mistakenly ran over a bollard. Businesses were disrupted while the section of road was blocked to allow for the clean-up.

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James runs up a total for good cause

James and Leanne

WHILE most men might be looking forward to a slap-up meal on their birthday, James Sutton of Stourbridge, spent his 31st running the second of eight fundraising marathons he is doing over eight weeks.

His target is to raise £2,500 towards research into the rare degenerative lung disease that has hit his fiancée, Leanne Lillywhite.

Leanne, 30, received the shock diagnosis in March this year. Her condition, commonly known as LAM (short for Lymphangioleiomyomatosis), is one of the world's rarest diseases. It affects only women – around seven in a million – and is a progressive, incurable illness. There are currently about 200 patients in the UK.

With a couple of 26.2 mile-tallies behind him, James has already raised £2,427, pounding the streets of Wolverhampton and the hills around Dorking.

By mid-October he will have run a further 78.6 miles at events in Snowdonia, Northants, Weston super Mare, Cardiff, Oxford and Birmingham.

The charity James is fundraising for is LAM Action, for which the website address is **www.lamaction.org**

Donations can be made via http://www.justgiving.com/Leanne-Lillywhite1.

James, a financial advisor for MLM Financial in Shrewsbury, said: "Leanne and I are genuinely overwhelmed with the level of donations so far."

The couple plan to marry next June.

Brother's shock phone call that led to reunion

John with his book, Finding Thomas, about a family which reunited

John Fisher, who is standing at the back second left, with his siblings Diane, Sandra, Steve, David, Alison, Thomas, Tracy, Mark and Susan

John Fisher as a young child, the picture is used on the book cover

by Mark Andrews

JOHN Fisher had just got in from work when the phone rang. When he picked up the receiver he could scarcely believe his ears.

"Hello, I'm your brother Thomas," said the man on the other end of the line.

John, now aged 58, had not seen Thomas since he was a baby. The pair, and a third brother Stephen, had grown up in a troubled family and were separated after being taken into care in 1963.

But John's success in tracking down his long-lost sibling led him to discover he had two other brothers and a sister, and took him on a seemingly endless quest to bring the family together.

Now John, a retired property services manager with Dudley Council, has put pen to paper to reveal his story in a moving new book.

John, of Spring Vale Close, Coseley, vividly remembers the day he received the telephone call which would change his life.

"My initial instinct was simply to start crying, but at the same time to maintain control of my emotions in order to take in what was happening. My mind was awash with thoughts, was this really Thomas? Was someone playing an awful trick on me? I felt at that moment that I needed to confirm to myself that this really was him."

By amazing coincidence, both brothers had been in touch with social services in an attempt to trace each other, with both of them visiting the council offices within a day of each other.

Determined

Speaking to the Express & Star, Mr Fisher says: "You can call it spooky, fate or whatever you want. But 24 hours after I went into the social services office and left my details, he went in to do the same thing." Mr Fisher says he was determined to find his family after being without them for so long. "I'd got my own life, my own children. But I felt there was something missing."

He had wondered what had happened to his younger brother ever since the pair were separated when he was just eight years old and Thomas was 17 months.

His mother Margaret had been committed to a hospital while suffering from mental illness, and his father Josiah reluctantly agreed that he was unable to bring the children up alone. Despite their problems and their children being taken away, the couple had more children who were also taken into care. After Margaret died from cancer, Josiah married someone else and had another three children.

John remained in contact with his father and Stephen, two years his junior, but it would be decades before he would see Thomas again, later discovering he had been adopted.

His book, Finding Thomas, tells how the pair were reunited at an emotional meeting in the car park of the Apple Tree pub in Roseville, Coseley, 19 years ago, and how they have become close friends since. The following years would be spent trying to trace the other three siblings – Mark, David and Susan – who were born after John, Stephen and Thomas were taken into care.

Susan now lives in Cardiff but the others are in the Black Country - Thomas and David in Dudley, Mark in Wednesbury and Stephen in Sedgley.

John and Stephen's search for their siblings was featured in the The Chronicle in 1989, and the pair employed a genealogist which would eventually see the whole family brought back together in 2007.

The book also tells the harrowing story of John's troubled childhood, which saw another brother and sister die during childhood, as well as a life of abject poverty growing up in a dysfunctional family.

But despite his troubled start, John, says there is no aspect of his life he would have changed, as were it not for an extraordinary chain of events which saw him eventually live with his grandmother, he would never have met his wife Diane.

He says: "I went to live with an aunt in 1963 but three years later my father wanted me to move in with him and his mother. But he then moved out and left me with my grandmother. Living there I went to Bishop Milner School and that's where I met Diane."

In the book he reveals: "She has become the only person in my life I can confide in, share my pain, my thoughts, my disappointments, my joy and elation. She is my life breath."

● **Finding Thomas is available in selected bookshops and through Amazon.**

Chiefs in review on policy to wear veils

A REVIEW is being launched over whether full-face veils should be worn within the health service, with 17 NHS hospitals having enforced bans and Dudley health chiefs saying they will discuss the matter further.

The review over the religious headdress has been announced after Health Minister Dan Poulter claimed that face coverings can be a barrier to good communication between health care professionals and patients.

He has now ordered a review of current advice and asked regulators to devise new uniform rules for health service guidelines.

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall Hospital, said it was looking into the issue.

Chief executive Paula Clark said: "The question of whether full-face veils can be worn while at work has never been raised at The Dudley Group. In light of the national position we are now reviewing our uniform policy."

Sandwell Hospital says it 'does not expect' staff to cover their faces.

Mosque bid visit agreed by planners

COUNCILLORS will make a site visit to the site of a proposed mosque and community centre on Wednesday.

Members of Sandwell's planning committee have been recommended to approve the proposals to transform a former Victorian Methodist church in Cradley Heath.

They are due to make a decision on Wednesday, but will first take a look at the proposed site. The Old Hill Masjid and Community Group has applied to Sandwell Council to change the use of the building in Halesowen Road.

The group said its current base, in Highgate Road, is no longer big enough and they wish to convert the new building into a mosque.

Under plans it is proposed to convert the vacant building to a mosque and teaching facility which would incorporate 17 car parking spaces on site.

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Building of shops complex nears end

CONSTRUCTION work on a £50 million shopping centre development is entering its final stages, as officials revealed improvements to the town's library.

Final preparations are being made to the redeveloped Crown Centre, anchored by a major new Tesco supermarket, in the heart of Stourbridge. The centre, which also features 10 new shop units and a underground car park, opens its doors to customers on October 31.

Officials announced the closure of the Market Street entrance to Stourbridge Library and the town hall, which is next to the redeveloped centre, from the start of this week.

Visitors will now be able to access both venues through the new mall entrance, off Crown Square.

Metal fencing which had been positioned in the square linking High Street and Lower High Street is being taken down to allow access into the mall.

The square has been repaved to make it a more attractive feature in front of the new Crown Centre building for visitors.

Dudley Council bosses said the closure of the Market Street entrance is necessary so that a new ramp can be constructed and improvements to the current entrance can be made.

Diversion signs will be in place in advance of the works taking place and during the week.

Charity pet show is due

DOG lovers will descend on a country park in Sedgley for a charity pet show being held on Saturday.

The Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Alan Finch, will be among the visitors at Baggeridge Country Park for the event.

He will be helping as a guest judge at the show, which begins at 11am and will raise cash for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People. There will be eleven categories.

Councillor Alan Finch, Mayor of Dudley, said: "I'm really looking forward to judging at the dog show and raising money for one of my mayoral charities Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

"I hope people will attend this day out in the park, as well as put their own dogs into the categories."

Yow keep going Big Yin, says funnyman Tommy

Tommy Mundon, who retired from comedy, now goes to the day centre at Mary Stevens Hospice

VETERAN Black Country comedian Tommy Mundon has been saddened by the news that fellow funnyman Billy Connolly has been struck by Parkinson's disease – the same illness that ended his own 50-year career.

But Tommy, now aged 79, who quit the Black Country circuit last year because of his ill-health, had this piece of advice for the Big Yin – 'keep going as long as yow can'.

Billy, aged 70, revealed this week that he has undergone surgery for prostate cancer and is being treated for the early symptoms of Parkinson's.

Tommy, who lives in Alexandra Road, Halesowen, was diagnosed with Parkinson's two years ago and, at first, carried on performing. But the condition made it harder to remember his lines and he threw in the towel in June last year.

Billy admitted earlier this year that he had started to forget his lines during performances and he has just been diagnosed with Parkinson's after undergoing surgery in America for prostate cancer.

Tommy, who was a stalwart of the Black Country Night Out variety shows, said of living with Parkinson's: "Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down – and sometimes I'm very down. It's a complicated disease. I'm a fan of Billy Connolly and it was a blow to hear he now has it.

"I was lucky mine was diagnosed early – and hopefully Billy will be able to get the best treatment and keep going and making people laugh."

The Black Country comedian found out he had the condition after he fell at home while dashing to answer a phone call and banged his shoulder.

"My doctor saw me walk up and down a couple of times – and said, 'Tom, I'm afraid you've got Parkinson's.'

"I've had brilliant treatment from the team of nurses at Russells Hall Hospital," said Tommy, who now goes once a week to the day centre at Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice to give his wife, Val, a break. "I'm doing all right but missing showbusiness."

Boss of veil row college, Dame Christine, to leave

THE principal of a college at the centre of a row over religious veils has announced she is to step down.

Dame Christine Braddock, who presided over Birmingham Metropolitan College's takeover of Stourbridge College, is to go by the end of next year.

by Alex Homer

The announcement comes soon after the college made a U-turn following the introduction of a ban on students wearing religious veils.

But Dame Christine has stressed that her decision to leave was made months before. Dame Christine, who took up the post in 1998, said the veil ruling was 'a college issue'. "That was a college decision, this is a personal decision," she said.

She added: "I am not resigning, I have no plans to resign. I am going to retire as most people do when they get to my age.

"It was last year we began to put succession plans in place. You can't run an organisation of this size without succession plans in place early."

Dame Christine said she had told the board of her intention to retire, but had not yet given official notice to leave the organisation.

She said: "I have to give a year's notice so in terms of that I have only given an intention to retire in due course at this stage.

"I have been here for 16 to 17 years, I think I have done enough."

The news was made public following the appointment of the college's new chairman of the corporation, Steve Hollis. He takes over from Vij Randeniya.

One of Mr Hollis' first tasks will be to find a replacement for Dame Christine. He said: "The board has had a phased approach to succession planning.

"She will continue in her role until the end of the academic year, to enable her to support her successor so a smooth, orderly transition can take place."

The college became the first in the region to bring in the ban for 'security reasons' and students were told to remove face coverings, including caps and hoodies. But the ban on the niqab, a veil that only leaves a slot for the eyes, was scrapped after being criticised by some Muslim girls.

Police found man dead

A MAN was found hanged from a bannister at his home, an inquest was told.

Michael Barnsley, aged 69, was discovered by police at his home in Acres Road, Quarry Bank, on September 12. His family had called police after being unable to contact him, Smethwick Coroners Court was told last week.

Senior coroner Mr Robin Balmain said Mr Barnsley had been certified dead at the scene. He adjourned the inquest to obtain more information.

Family car crashes into side of house

The car balances against the side of a house after careering off the road *Courtesy of Brierley Hill Fire Service*

A CAR carrying three young children careered off the road, through a garden wall and into the side of a house.

The children – aged one, three and eight – and the woman driver had a lucky escape walking away unharmed from the smash in Brierley Hill.

The brakes on the car, a silver Citroen Picasso, are believed to have failed before the car went through the wall and hit the house. It then ended up balancing against the side of a house in Calewood Road at around 6.20pm last Thursday. The driver was taken to Russells Hall Hospital as a precaution, while the three girls went home with their grandmother.

Watch commander Roy Whitehead, from Brierley Hill fire station, said: "The driver pulled out of a junction and she said she went to slam her brakes on because there was a vehicle coming down the road.

"But she said her brakes failed and she continued into the front garden of one house, and angled herself so she hit the corner of another property."

Firefighters used a winch to pull the car away from the house. The crash caused no structural damage.

Bench joiner Mark Moore, aged 27, was in the house at the time of the crash, along with his brother and mother Julie, who was downstairs in the kitchen next to where the car ended up. Mr Moore said: "I had just back from work and I heard the noise. It's hard to describe but it was like a bang. I looked out of the window and saw the car at the side of the building, and came downstairs first to see if my mum was all right."

NEWS in brief

Jail for thefts of shop items

A MOTHER of two who stole nearly £2,000 worth of jewellery from the Merry Hill shop where she worked has been jailed.

Karen Waller, aged 53, took items including rings, bracelets, chains and watches from jewellers TH Baker while she was already the subject of a suspended three-month jail term imposed for stealing from another employer, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

Waller, of Watery Lane, Wordsley, admitted stealing and also breaching the suspended sentence for stealing £7,000 in goods.

Mr Gareth Walters, prosecuting, told the court that Waller stole from her employer between May 10, 2012 and February 2 this year. She received the suspended sentence last November. Judge John Warner sentenced her to four months for the theft, with an additional two months for the breach of the suspended jail term.

Authorities fight growing jobless

COUNCILS have joined forces as part of a new scheme to combat youth unemployment.

The local authorities in Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton have launched the two-year Youth Employment Commission in a bid to help get more young people into work.

The commission will work with businesses, charities and social enterprises to find the best ways of getting young people into work.

The move comes as a report by the commission says the true number of unemployed people aged from 18 to 24 in the Black Country is estimated to be 16,815 rather than the previously reported 14,070.

Ex-porter found hanged from door

A RETIRED porter was found hanged from his living room door, an inquest heard.

Joseph Francis Allen, 69, was found by police after they forced entry to his home in The Drive, Brierley Hill, on September 11, Smethwick Coroners Court heard last week.

Senior coroner Mr Robin Balmain said a note had also been found indicating Mr Allen had intended to harm himself. He adjourned the inquest for more information.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

IS ANYONE surprised by this week's TUC report showing that thousands of tenants have slipped into rent arrears after being clobbered with the bedroom tax? I can't think of a more mean-spirited policy than cutting the housing benefit of people whose only crime is to live in the house their local council or housing association gave them. Everyone accepts there is a desperate shortage of family-sized public housing, caused largely by successive governments ripping up border controls and rewarding people for breeding like rabbits. Tenants with smaller families should be encouraged to vacate big houses they no longer need. But the way to do that is by building more one and two-bedroom homes in the area and paying tenants a sweetener of, say, £1,000 to make the move. More carrot, less stick.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

SO EVERYONE was guilty but no-one is to blame. The "serious case review" into the death of four-year-old Daniel Pelka who was murdered by his mother and her partner in Coventry, says some professionals were "too optimistic" in believing Daniel's lying mother. We are told that "critical lessons" must be "translated into action". It all sounds hideously familiar. The beauty of a report like this is that it can be pulled off the shelf and used again, time after time for years to come, simply by changing the name of the dead child. A masterpiece.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

FREE school meals for all under-eights? Part of me rejoices at the prospect of millions of mums no longer having to worry about the next day's sandwiches. The other part of me fears that kids who were quite happy with sarnies will now be tearfully exposed to the latest theories on what constitutes a healthy meal. Anyone for tofu and broccoli surprise, kiddies? It is a curious thing but in the days when every state-school kid was raised on a shilling's worth of braised beef, mashed potatoes and stodge pudding, we were a lot thinner and a hell of a lot fitter than today's little sofa-slugs.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

INCIDENTALLY, when I use the word "mums" I of course mean all homemakers, in a non-gender-specific sort of way. You have to be so careful.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

MY ABIDING memory of school dinners (now renamed "school lunches" by the interfering middle classes) is of salads suddenly appearing on the menu with an accompanying bread roll. On day one, the rolls were dry. A pal and I, both aged 10, solved the problem by pouring salad cream on them. For this spark of initiative we were both whacked on the head by a teacher. Happiest days of your life.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

MONEY and justice do not mix. Thousands of motorists have been sent on speed awareness courses not because they posed any particular danger but because 'safety partnerships' signed contracts with the speed-awareness industry. The latest public-order brainwave is for police to arrest drunks and hand them over to private security companies who will put them in 'drunk tanks' and charge £400 to release them. So, in effect, there is a bounty on the head of every drunk. You see the danger? At worst, there is scope for police corruption, with officers taking backhanders for every person delivered. At best, expect a sudden redefinition of the term 'drunk' to include anyone smelling vaguely of alcohol, in order to keep the drunk tanks in business. And don't expect any sympathy from your fellow citizens. The same harrumphers who believe 32mph ought to be a hanging offence also believe that a quiet pint after work is rampant alcoholism. And they have the vote.

❑❑❑❑❑❑❑❑

AND would these drunk tanks, with all the attendant humiliation and publicity, be used for drunk-as-a-skunk politicians, the nobility, their offspring and so on? Or would the ruling elite be quietly taken home to sleep it off? What do you think?

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Ex-mayor in porn shame to step down

Councillor Burston

A SHAMED former mayor who viewed pornography on his council computer has revealed he will step down from the authority – less than a week after vowing he would remain as councillor despite the controversy.

Councillor Ray Burston was issued with a formal warning at a Dudley Council standards sub-committee meeting after admitting to visiting the adult websites. It was the second time he had been reprimanded for viewing pornography after being warned by former Conservative group and council leader David Caunt around 10 years ago.

Following the sub-committee's warning, Councillor Burston, who has sat on the authority for 21 years over two stints, vowed to continue as councillor for Hayley Green and Cradley South.

But he now says he has taken the decision to step down as a councillor when his office in term expired next year.

He also voluntarily resigned the Conservative whip – in doing so becoming an independent councillor. On Tuesday, he said: "I have today informed the Leader of the Conservative Group on Dudley Council of my decision to voluntarily resign the Conservative whip in order to spare the party further embarrassment or criticism on account of my actions.

"In addition, I shall not be seeking re-election as a candidate for Hayley Green and Cradley South when my current term of office expires next year."

He added: "I can only reaffirm to them my deep remorse, and to take this opportunity to thank them for the support they have given me during my 21 years as their local councillor."

Following the statement, the Conservative leader on the council, Councillor Patrick Harley, said the right decision had been made. Councillor Burston has said he will donate the remainder of his council members allowances to the Mayor of Dudley's charities.

Danger driver almost struck traffic wardens

by Alex Ross

A DRIVER sped away and almost hit two parking wardens after being given a ticket for parking on double yellow lines, a court was told.

Michael Dilworth had returned to his Vauxhall Astra in Dudley High Street to find the wardens printing a ticket and taking a picture of his vehicle.

Prosecuting, Miss Lynda Gudgeon told Dudley Magistrates Court: "He gets into the vehicle and throws a two-year-old child into the passenger seat, starts the engine and drives away.

"Both officers said they had to jump out of the way as the vehicle quickly sped away."

Miss Gudgeon said a nearby police officer saw the incident and stepped out in the road to stop Dilworth in the car.

She said: "The officer goes round the side window to get the keys out of the ignition – but the defendant then makes off away from the officer and drives in a dangerous manner to get away.

"Two police officers follow him and he is later arrested."

Dilworth, aged 27, of Titford Road in Oldbury, had denied the charge of dangerous driving at a court hearing on June 21 but changed his plea on the day a trial was due to start.

Advised

He also admitted to driving with no licence and no insurance in connection with the incident on June 4.

Defending Dilworth, Mr Charles Royle, said: "Since the last court hearing, the prosecution has seen CCTV which shows the incident.

"We have viewed it with the defendant, we have advised him that what is on the CCTV does amount to dangerous driving and today he pleads guilty to that charge."

Mr Royle asked magistrates to adjourn sentencing Dilworth for pre-sentence reports.

He said: "You will need a report and I will keep my powder dry until that report."

Chairman of the bench, Mr Mohammed Iqval, adjourned the case for sentencing on October 16. He also gave Dilworth an interim ban from driving until the hearing.

Dilworth was released on unconditional bail.

SOS as cat crisis hits RSPCA

RSPCA fosterer Susan Tranter, of Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, is looking after 15 cats

A CAT crisis is swamping RSPCA branches – and the animal charity has launched an SOS for help to rehome thousands of moggies.

RSPCA branches across the Black Country, Staffordshire and the rest of the West Midlands are desperate for help because of an unprecedented number of cats in their care. It is so bad that some branches and centres in the Midlands are unable to take in any more moggies at the moment, with several having more than 100 cats desperately waiting for new homes.

Stourbridge and district branch is looking for homes for 52 cats and kittens, which are being looked after by nine fosterers. They include three, three-day-old kittens among a litter of five dumped in a box next to a recycling bank in Cradley Heath – two of which had died.

Susan Tranter, of the Stourbridge branch, who is currently looking after a total of 15 cats at her home in Thorns Road, Quarry Bank, including the three survivors and two other kittens, said: "The situation is desperate."

The charity says some owners can no longer afford to keep them, so are throwing them out, while others cannot pay vet bills if their pet falls ill. But volunteers and staff at RSPCA centres and branches blame ignorance or laziness among owners about the need to neuter their cats – leaving many falling pregnant and having a large number of kittens.

Cats are being dumped in boxes outside RSPCA centres or in the street and owners are constantly calling the charity to take on their cats because they can no longer afford to care for them.

Four dogs rescued as fires start in kitchens

FIREFIGHTERS rescued four dogs in two separate blazes sparked by chip pans in kitchens. And a smouldering cooker pan at a third home led to an elderly woman needing treatment.

Black Country firefighters said the three incidents – in Brierley Hill, Cradley Heath and Oldbury – proved how important it was to have working smoke alarms in homes.

Three dogs were rescued after a small blaze on the kitchen stove started at a house in Bankwell Street, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill, while a mother was out on a school run last Tuesday morning. A deep fat fryer had been left on the hob. But as the woman returned at around 9am she heard the smoke alarm and called 999.

Fire crews from Brierley Hill and Dudley dragged out the dogs and the animals, as well as the woman, escaped unhurt. Watch commander Nick Lacey said: "It was down to the lady hearing the smoke alarm going off which helped stop anything more serious."

The crew was then sent to Whitehall Road, Cradley Heath, at 10am, when an elderly woman was overcome by smoke from a pan on the cooker. Later, an Oldbury crew tackled a blaze after a chip pan spilled on to a hob in Cornwall Avenue, Brandhall. A 16-year-old boy fled to safety and a terrier was rescued.

Archives will be on move to new home

PRECIOUS documents contained in Dudley's archives centre will begin to be moved to their new multi-million pound home from the start of next month.

Construction work on the new £6 million centre is under way and is expected to be ready for the grand opening next January.

Stock will begin to be moved across when the present site in Mount Pleasant Street, Coseley, closes its doors to the public on October 1.

As a result of the move, Dudley borough archives and local history service will be operating a reduced service. Officials say the preparations make the Coseley centre unsafe for public access along with the archive material being inaccessible. For details call 01384 812770.

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Powers to be greater for PCSOs in county

POLICE community support officers covering Worcestershire will be given new powers – but forced to work longer hours.

West Mercia Police said the move was aimed at making better use of a 'highly-valued' officers.

PCSOs will be given 10 new powers including the power to detain without the use of force, to conduct drugs searches, dealing with truancy and certain traffic offences.

They will be able to deal with alcohol-related crimes by issuing fixed penalty notices across their region which includes Clent and Stourport.

Some community officers will also be based within secondary schools according to police chiefs in West Mercia and Warwickshire which have joined for the scheme.

Police chiefs said the plan, which comes into force from next Monday, could mean PSCOs working until midnight.

However Assistant Chief Constable Gareth Morgan said: "PCSOs are firmly established both within the police service and communities and are highly valued by both forces as a visible local presence within our safer neighbourhood teams," he said.

Bake off for cancer cause

STUDENTS at Halesowen College are hosting a Great Pink Bake Off next month to help raise funds for the Breakthrough Breast Cancer charity.

The student bakers have taken on the challenge on October 18 to raise as much money as they can through a sweepstake.

Those who collect the most cash, coupled with securing votes for the best cakes, will be declared the winner.

Sainsbury's store staff raise £200

COLLEAGUES from Sainsbury's Amblecote store have raised more than £200 for charity. Staff from the store on Sandringham Way staged a back to school dress-up day and raised £222 for its charity partner, Mary Stevens Hospice.

Store manager Kevin Healy said: "The day was a great deal of fun."

Cool response to iPhone despite Brum queues

Queues build up outside the shop in Birmingham

THERE was a scramble for Apple's latest iPhone models but the new gadgets received a lukewarm response in the West Midlands.

Queues built up at the Bullring in Birmingham on Friday, but there was no repeat of the scenes across the Black Country except for a handful of early birds.

Mobile phone stores were open at Merry Hill shopping centre by 8am but only a handful of customers arrived to get their hands on the new iPhone.

Apple has described the new iPhone 5S as the 'most forward-thinking smartphone in the world', while its iPhone 5C is a cheaper basic model.

Queues began forming days before at stores in London with hundreds eager to get their hands on the iPhone 5S which features an 8-megapixel camera, slow-motion video and a Touch ID which allows users to unlock their phone with the touch of a finger. It costs between £549 and £709.

Arrived

The iPhone 5C comes in five colours – blue, green, pink, yellow and white – and costs between £469 and £549.

John Kynnersley, aged 41, from Kingswinford, was an early bird at Merry Hill to buy an iPhone 5s. The delivery driver had been all night at work and arrived at 7.30am to queue with five other people to get the new mobile phone from the Three store. Mr Kynnersley said: "Any new technology generates excitement and when my contract ran out I wanted this phone."

Sales adviser Chris Carew, 23, from West Heath, Birmingham, said he came to Merry Hill to avoid the queues in Birmingham. He was second in a queue of six and managed to get the only white iPhone there.

He said: "I was expecting a queue, but really no-one was here."

Ade Beckford, 25, from Tettenhall left home early to buy a new iPhone 5S from the EE store in Wolverhampton. "I love Apple products," he said.

Cars, homes and firms hit in night of graffiti attacks

GRAFFITI was sprayed on dozens of cars, homes and businesses in a spate of vandal attacks across a whole neighbourhood.

More than 20 homeowners woke up to find the tag graffiti on their home walls, garage doors and vehicles in their driveways in Spies Lane and Howley Grange Road in Halesowen.

by Alex Ross

Quinton Methodist Church and Dallows Memorials as well as dozens of street signs and roadside walls were also targeted by the random spate of vandalism. While most of the graffiti was simply a 'CNS' tag, there were also obscene messages scrawled over people's homes.

The vandalism was discovered on Saturday morning – and a suspect has been caught on CCTV spraying a tag on a resident's car in Howley Grange Road just before 4am. The hooded individual can be seen running across the drive, spraying the side door of the parked vehicle before running away.

Sprayed

Childminder Jenny Clulo, aged 42, has the CCTV to help guard her business – but after being woken up by neighbours to alert her to the attack on her car she immediately thought of the 24-hour recorded footage.

She said: "I went straight to have a look, and there in the middle of the night I could see the person who sprayed the car. It was strange to watch. The whole neighbourhood has been shaken by what has happened. I hope the footage might help police."

Four police officers turned up on Saturday morning following calls to inspect the damage and speak to victims. Resident Derek Dowell, aged 61, of Howley Grange Road, had a 'CNS' tag sprayed across his courier van. He now has to have the graffiti removed before returning to work. He said: "I don't understand why someone would do this."

Lynne Edmonds, aged 57, of Howley Grange Road, woke up to find the tag scrawled over the side of her house. She said: "It's not what you want to find when waking up to your weekend."

Renee Gerrard, aged 89, of Bournebrook Crescent, also had her bungalow targeted. Her son-in-law Tony Walker, aged 70, said: "It's disgusting someone could do this."

The graffiti artist climbed Alan Walker's garage roof to scrawl the tag on the side of his house in Spies Lane.

His nephew Jon Evans, aged 29, said: "I've seen the tag sprayed across the town. The person needs to be stopped now."

Last week, Halesowen Inspector Dez Lambert said police were investigating a spate of graffiti across the town. A man was arrested, then released on bail on September 13. Pc Paul Chambers said: "There has been a spate of damage which has occurred in the area. This is something police will not tolerate and will investigate."

Dallows Memorials, Victoria Avenue, Halesowen, which suffered at the hands of the spray-paint graffiti vandal

Andy Ridley attempts to remove spray paint from his car

Lynne Edmonds and John Willetts view the damage

NEWS in brief

Age UK hosts big skills event

THE young and the old are teaming up for a joint event to celebrate being 'full of life'.

Dudley Youth Service and Age UK Dudley are planning the annual event, to be held on Tuesday, to celebrate the contribution that older people make to their local communities.

It will take the form of a 'big skills share', involving both young and old, at The Source Youth Centre, by Fairhaven School in Barnett Lane, Wordsley, from 5.30pm to 8pm.

Sally Huband, chief officer at Age UK Dudley, said: "In Dudley we wanted to show just how good it is for our local community to see older people and younger people get-ting together and having some fun together."

The skills on offer at this year's event range from map-reading and poetry to cake decorating.

There will also be an opportunity to get to grips with the Wii console.

Gambler in drugs charge avoids jail

A GAMBLING addict who rented his house out to cannabis growers in return for thousands of pounds in cash has escaped a prison sentence.

Steven Narang, aged 61, of Enville Street, Stourbridge, pleaded guilty to permitting his premises to be used for the production of class B drugs. He was given a 52-week suspended sentence and a two year community order.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard police found 341 cannabis plants with a street value of £100,000. Prosecuting, Mr Paul Mitten said Narang was working in a casino and was offered £12,000 by a player for the use of his premises.

Bat walks at park to sample wildlife

VISITORS are being given the chance to find out about the creatures that come out in the park after it gets dark.

Bat walks will be taking place at Haden Hill Park in Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager, said: "We are very lucky in Haden Hill Park. We have at least three species of bats."

The walks will take place tomorrow and on October 4. Booking is essential on 01384 569444.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW WITH MARK ANDREWS

CANNOCK Chase Council is going to introduce a 'nominal' 10p-an-hour parking charge for certain car parks in Cannock and Rugeley in a bid to boost its ailing town centres.

The council says the lost revenue will cost the authority around £8,000, which represents around 8p for each of the district's 97,500 residents, so if it helps bring shoppers back into town, it will represent good value indeed.

But welcome though the move is, one wonders whether it kind of misses the point. The problem with car parking charges is not simply a question of finance, it is a matter of convenience, a matter of the sort of welcome that a town extends to its visitors.

It is the whole idea of councils imposing rules and regulations on the people they are supposed to serve, and dishing out punishments to those they consider to have fallen short.

Even with the new 'nominal' charges, shoppers will still need to fumble around for a 10p piece, they will need to know in advance how long they intend to stay, and they will have to affix a silly little piece of paper to their windscreens to avoid the watchful eye of the street patrols.

Presumably, if a 90 per cent cut in parking charges costs the council just £8,000, then it would cost just another £888.88 – less than a penny a head – to make parking charges completely free.

In fact, it would probably cost even less, as they would not need to employ anybody to empty the meters, not to mention those wonderful people dressed up like the cast of Dad's Army issuing the tickets.

❑❑❑❑❑❑

FORMER drug addict and mother-of-seven Cleo Embley, was jailed for 22 months after swindling the taxpayer out of £94,000 by claiming benefits she was not entitled to.

In mitigation, her barrister Mark Stuart told the court Embley 'knew she was going to have to pay the money back'.

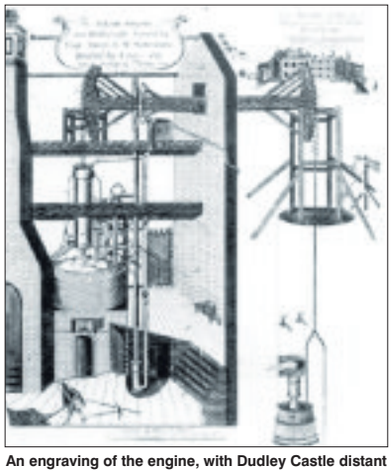
And where was she going to find the money from for that, you might ask. Incredibly, she will continue to receive £237-a-week in Working Families Tax Credit.

So in other words, we will all spend the foreseeable future picking up the tab for repaying the money she stole from us in the first place. Isn't modern Britain just marvellous?

❑❑❑❑❑❑

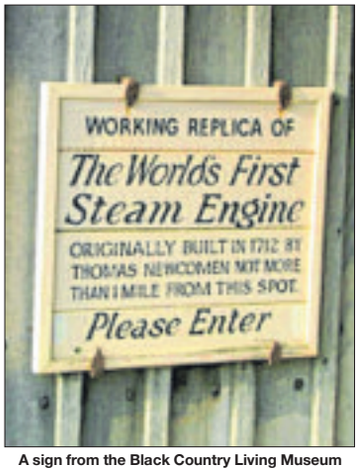
MORE proof politicians really come from a different planet to the rest of us. Education Secretary Michael Gove says teenagers should give up 'sexting' and instead start posting each other love poems.

He quoted a verse that Napoleon sent to his lover Joséphine de Beauharnais as the sort of thing youngsters might like to send each other: "I hope before long to press you in my arms and shall shower on you a million burning kisses as under the equator." Or 'do u want 2 snog 2nite?' as it might appear on a teenager's phone.



An engraving of the engine, with Dudley Castle distant

Father of steam power – Thomas Newcomen



A sign from the Black Country Living Museum

Engine debate fails to run out of steam

MARK ANDREWS outlines the differing views of historians in the region as to where the birthplace of the steam age is – Dudley, or Wolverhampton?

JOHN Allen and Suhail Rana are agreed on one thing. That the world's first steam engine was built by Thomas Newcomen in the West Midlands.

But there, it seems, the concord ends. Mr Allen, who has spent half a century researching the subject, is adamant that Dudley is the birthplace of the steam age. Mr Rana is convinced it is Wolverhampton.

To the outsider, it probably seems strange that something so innocuous can get people so steamed up. But a presentation by Mr Rana this summer at Wolverhampton's former Molineux Hotel has seen the temperature rise again.

Until comparatively recently, the consensus has always been that Newcomen's first successful steam engine had been installed somewhere in the shadows of Dudley Castle.

In 1932 T E Lones presented a detailed paper to the Newcomen Society concluding that the Earl of Dudley's Coneygree Park, about three-quarters of a mile west of the castle, was the most likely site. Here, the Earl had a coal works, and it was thought that the engine had been installed to drain water from the mine.

This was briefly challenged in 1948 when historian W O Henderson presented a paper to the Newcomen Society arguing that the so-called Dudley Castle engine may have been preceded by one in Wolverhampton, but the experts in London were not convinced. But now Mr Rana, president of Wolverhampton Civic Society, has reignited the debate, saying he has uncovered fresh evidence that steam power was first utilised in Wolverhampton. Intriguingly, Mr Rana does not question any of the evidence put forward by John Allen in his comprehensive paper presented to the Newcomen Society in 1965, which makes a compelling argument that the first steam engine was installed at Coneygree. This includes a print by Thomas Barney, headed "The steam engine near Dudley Castle, invented by Capt Savery and Mr Newcomen, erected by ye later. 1712." Further evidence comes from a contemporary account by Swedish engineer Marten Triewald, who spent 10 years in Britain from 1716, who said that the Newcomen was erected "at Dudley Castle".

A working replica of the Newcomen steam engine, at the Black Country Living Museum. It is believed the world's first steam engine was built in the region

Indeed Mr Rana is happy to concede that the first working steam engine was installed at the Coneygree mine in 1712 – but only after it was moved from its original site in Wolverhampton.

Mr Rana contends that prior to being acquired by the Earl of Dudley, the engine was first used by William Bache, the impoverished owner of a mine near to the end of Cross Street, off the Willenhall Road, just behind Moore Street.

"In 1711, it looks like he was having one last attempt to make the mines successful," he says. "We know he borrowed £250. I believe he contacted Newcomen to build an engine."

Like Henderson in 1948, part of his argument is based on the writings of J T Desaguliers, a leading member of the Royal Society, who wrote in 1744 "they bargain'd to draw water for Mr Back of Wolverhampton, where, after a great man laborious attempts, they did make the engine work."

Assuming that Bache, who died suddenly in August 1712, and Back are one and the same, it would appear to give weight to Mr Rana's case. Except that this was rejected by the Newcomen Society in 1948.

"The difficulty with that is it was written so many years after the event, and the problem with old men is that their memory fades," says Roger Cline, editor of the Newcomen Journal.

But Mr Rana, a 46-year-old computer lecturer at Dudley College, believes that the real breakthrough came with the discovery of a lost diary by a Dr Richard Wilkes, where he wrote in 1736: "Mr Sparrow had fixed a Fire Engine at the End of Wolverhampton next Willenhall, which now began to work…. This Mr. Newcomen most happily effected and built the first that ever drew Water, near to the Place where this now stands."

Mr Allen, a former president of the Newcomen Society from Stourton, is unconvinced. The 87-year-old says there is nothing in Mr Rana's evidence that has not already been considered – and rejected. It is also worth pointing out that Coneygree Park was a vast site, straddling the old Dudley and Tipton boundaries, and although it might have only been a matter of yards from the centre of Dudley, the location of the engine itself might well have been within what is now the borough of Sandwell. Like one of Newcomen's ground-breaking steam engines, it looks like this old debate is set to run and run.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A WOLVERHAMPTON rock band famed for using pyrotechnics in their act were forced to take action after blowing a hole in a stage. Members of The Smokin' Roadie group bought a second hand fire engine to take to gigs after the accident in Chasewater.

HUNDREDS of audiophiles from all over the country descended on Sandwell for the annual British Phonofair exhibition. Old and valuable gramophones, some dating back to the start of the century, were on display at the Teacher's Centre in Oldbury.

A BICYCLE-MAD postman from Wolverhampton was planning to open a museum in his attic after collecting 22 Victorian boneshakers in just over 18 months. John Bates, of Tettenhall, found most of his collection dumped in hedges or rusting away in gardens.

1993...

A VIKING invasion of Walsall took place to mark the start of the town's popular local history fair. But actors from the Longship Trading Company put on displays of family life and traditional crafts rather than looting and pillaging.

A LYE company was set to cash in on a wave of "Blobbymania" after securing a licence from the BBC to produce a range of Mr Blobby gift items. Alpha Marketing produced clocks and lunchboxes based on the character from the popular Noel's House Party programme.

A WALSALL man was named Grabatologist of the Year after amassing a collection of more than 5,000 ties. Tom Holmes of Pelsall was presented with the award by the Guild of British Tie Makers.

2003...

WOLVES owner Sir Jack Hayward put the club up for sale – for nothing. The owner prepared to write off his £40 million investment by handing over his 100 per cent stock holding for the promise of future team and club development by his successor.

A WOLVERHAMPTON man was reunited with a daughter he had not seen for 35 years and a granddaughter he had never met in an emotional get-together. Christopher Taylor met up with daughter Tracey Dwyer after she flew over from Australia.

A BLACK Country builder downed his chisel and sander and picked up a nail file after deciding his future was in the beauty business. Steve Woodhouse, from Dudley, worked in the building trade for three years before opening a nail salon in Wolverhampton city centre.

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LETTERS

Sadness at NIMBY block on plan

I SAT tonight reading the report on the planning application for a purpose-built recycling centre and energy regeneration unit in Brierley Hill being rejected and all the NIMBY protesters celebrating this event. I was both disappointed and sad in the same moment.

As a country we are running out of land and the recycling companies are fighting a losing battle. UK Plc has directives from Planet Europe to increase recycling targets to increasing levels or be fined by the EC Commission. Despite this I am in agreement with Planet Europe as we need to improve our recycling performances as we will run out of places to dump our over packaged supermarket purchases. We cannot continue at the same pace or we will find waste in our streets with nowhere for it to go.

It seems to me that a purpose-built recycling plant would be, however small, an opportunity to begin a reduction in landfill waste and to provide generated electricity for local housing.

In recent months it may not have helped with publicity on fires in recycling plants which has forced their closure and a loss of recycling facilities. This will add to the pressure but with rejections of planning applications for a new well-managed facility we are making the position worse.

With sites being lost there could be an increase in fly tipping in our lanes.

My view is we should all get more involved in recycling and look more objectively at such planning applications even to the point of putting them in country areas where they will have less impact. So where do Dudley Council go from here? I think that is a decision that the NIMBYs should now carefully consider and hopefully they will come to their senses.

PETER THOMPSON,
Pedmore, Stourbridge.

Our visit to Public was revelation

AS WEST Bromwich is not very high on our places to visit list we had relied on reports and comments on the Public Centre; believing it to be the most overrated, over budget and total waste of public money.

Last week we took the opportunity to visit. What a revelation.

Reminiscent of the Pompidou Centre in Paris from the outside, the interior was well planned, easy access and presented scope for activities of various kinds. Shame on Sandwell Council if they intend to dispose of this experiment in social contact that could rival any other local amenity.

If, as reports indicate, it is to be passed over to the local college it could be inaccessible to the general public and deprive them of much needed access to art forms not available anywhere else in the borough.

Perhaps West Bromwich Council is not ready for culture.

KEITH NICHOLLS,
Dudley.

LETTERS to the Editor

POST
Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

E-MAIL
Dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Blood donor hits out at service fall

FURTHER to Keith Bate's recent letter regarding the Blood Donor Service, I would just like to say I wholeheartedly agree with his comments.

I started donating in 1981 and have seen a steady decline in the service. At one time you could be in and out in about 40 minutes, not anymore.

I do not make appointments because of work commitments so just turn up on the day. But when you do turn up without an appointment, you are looked down upon and told you might have to wait an hour.

Also, why are there so few beds? You turn up and find about eight beds formed into a circle reminiscent of a Western movie when the wagon trains were formed into a circle to thwart the apache Indians.

The final straw for me came when I made my 50th donation and was handed two tacky gifts – they didn't know it was my 50th donation, I had to tell them.

I no longer go because of the system now in place, so can the National Blood Service please do something about it before blood levels reach critically low levels with the expanding population of this country?

ROB EDWARDS, Ulster Drive, Kingswinford.

Response was muted to stories

LOOKING through a recent edition of the Express & Star, I was reminded of two unusual reports that haven't provoked any comment.

First we had two men found with a pump action shotgun in their car in Dudley town centre. Why would anybody be riding around the streets of Dudley with such a nasty weapon and where did they get it from?

In the second case, a crown prosecution service manager and her boyfriend carried out a £1 million scam over five years, raking in up to £4,000 a week for non-existent taxi journeys.

Consequently it does make you wonder why nobody questioned the obvious amount of invoices submitted and the amounts being paid out.

Now the CPS are telling us they are tightening up on procedures, not before time I would say. This whole episode has proved to be a scandalous theft of taxpayers' money.

A P CUFF,
Stourbridge.

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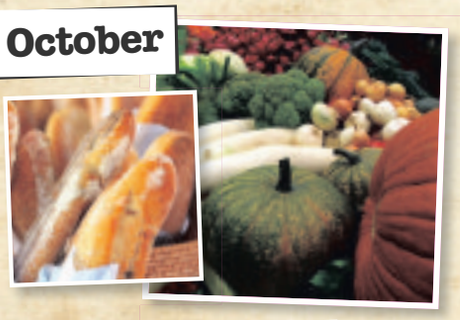

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MEMORY LANE

Our boys who helped in decisive Messines victory

Barry and Ann Weaver with Malcolm Cooper, at the grave of Private Walter Boots of Lye, during their pilgrimage to Belgium

At the Pool of Peace, a flooded mine crater on Messines Ridge

By Peter Rhodes

UP HERE, on a clear, sunny morning, you can see what the Battle of Messines was all about during the course of the First World War.

This gentle ridge rises near the ancient Belgian town of Ypres. The Flanders plain stretches out below.

Whoever holds Messines Ridge controls hundreds of square miles of territory. From here, as battlefield guide Alan Whittle explains to a party of visitors – on a trip organised by a group which includes former members of 871 Signal troop who were based in Stourbridge – an army can see and destroy anything it chooses.

Pointless

In the summer of 1917 the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years. They had turned it into an impregnable fortress, raining hellfire and poison gas on the British troops below.

In the space of 24 hours, all that changed. The Battle of Messines was not the usual pointless, bloody charge at the barbed wire that cost so many lives here on the Western Front – the tactics mercilessly parodied in Blackadder Goes Forth. Messines was meticulously planned by General Hubert Plumer and his staff and it was that rarest of things, a great British victory.

Hundreds of miles away, in the old First World War training camp on Cannock Chase, archaeologists are today patiently uncovering a tennis-court sized model of the town of Messines.

By the summer of 1917, the Germans had held Messines Ridge for three years

It is believed to have been built partly as a training aid and partly in tribute to the Tommies who seized the ridge.

On the actual battlefield, nearly 100 years later, visitors place little wooden crosses on the graves of some of those who died in the fighting.

This three-day pilgrimage to Ypres and Messines was organised by the Queen's Own Warwickshire and Worcestershire Yeomanry Comrades' Association which includes former members of the Stourbridge-based Signals, until it was wound up in Territorial Army cutbacks a few years ago.

Retired major Malcolm Cooper, from Norton, Stourbridge, and former sergeant-major Barry Weaver, from Cradley, who both served with the Signals lay their crosses on the graves of Tommies in Lone Tree Cemetery who died in a terrible miscalculation.

These doomed soldiers left their trenches too soon and were killed in the explosion of a British mine.

It was the mines that won the battle. For months before, British sappers, like those immortalised in the Sebastian Faulks novel and television drama Birdsong, had been digging.

They planted 455 tons of high explosives deep under the German trenches on Messines Ridge.

In the early hours of June 7, 1917, the mines were detonated. Nineteen enormous explosions ripped apart a 10-mile section of the ridge.

In 20 seconds an estimated 10,000 German soldiers were killed. Many, as Alan Whittle explains to his silent audience, simply vanished, vapourised in volcanoes of fire as the mines erupted.

Some folk said they could hear the bangs in London.

Centenary

As all hell broke loose, the officers blew their whistles and 80,000 British, Australian and New Zealander soldiers, supported by tanks and low-flying aircraft, rose from their trenches and swept up on to the ridge, capturing hundreds of Germans who were too injured or shell-shocked to fight back.

Next year marks the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War. Many more pilgrimages like this will visit France and Belgium to pay their respects in thousands of little acts of remembrance.

At New Irish Farm Cemetery near Ypres, Barry Weaver's wife Ann stoops to plant her wooden cross on the grave of a Black Country lad.

Private Walter Boots, 30, of 15 Green Lane, Lye, was the husband of Eliza and was killed on September 11, 1917, one of almost a million British and Commonwealth soldiers who perished between 1914 and 1918.

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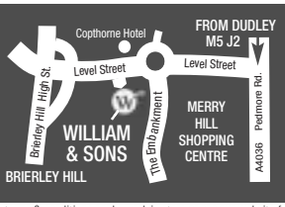

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NEWS

Reading is breeze in forest library

Year 1 pupils at Belle View Primary School, in the new forest-themed story and reading room, made after a grant

A £10,000 lottery grant has transformed a school library into an enchanted forest for children thanks to an artistic touch.

by Andrew Turton

Youngsters at Belle Vue Primary School, in Wordsley, have enjoyed story time in their new surroundings this term. Instead of dusty books and drab walls, the library now comes complete with a 'Once Upon a Time' book mural and a tree with its branches snaking across the ceiling.

It has been packed full of objects including a mock car, and the shelves are bursting with books to read.

Artists Glenn Carrington and Phil Lynch were behind the transformation over the summer holiday. School teacher Andrea Perrett was successful in securing the £10,000 cheque from the Big Lottery Fund to bring the project to life.

Computers have also been installed in the library and lessons are taking place daily for children at the Lawnswood Road school.

And Mrs Perrett says the school plan to have the library open to the public in the summer holidays to allow children to continue their reading.

"We think it is very important that children continue to read during the holidays so we are hoping to have many of them come back with their families," she said.

"We are delighted with the new-look library and we are so pleased with what Glenn and Phil did. We think it looks great and the children love it."

The library also boasts its own leaf-shaped table where children can sit to read.

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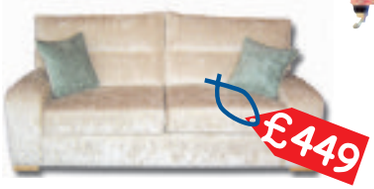

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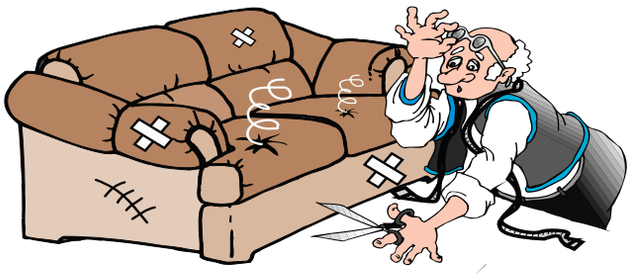

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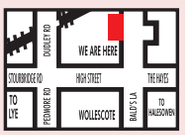


NEWS

Woodhenge scrapped after yob fears voiced

by Tim Spiers

AMBITIOUS plans to create a mini version of Stonehenge in a village near Stourbridge have been scrapped because residents feared unruly youths would ruin it.

The £6,000 plans were the brainchild of district councillor Reg Williams, who asked people in Wombourne for their opinions.

But he said the Woodhenge project, which would have been paid for through community funds, will not go ahead because residents do not want young people congregating around it.

Pledges

He held a consultation and received 124 responses, 60 of them objecting. The rest, a narrow majority, had been in favour and there had been pledges of financial support.

If the plans had come to fruition Woodhenge would have been 65 ft in diameter and 9ft 10in high.

It would have included 24 upright beams and crossbeams to provide an enclosure for a stone round table in the centre.

Paths would have led off the central part of Woodhenge in an area of grassland off Gravel Hill near the centre of the village. And a plaque would have been carved into solid oak wood to landmark the site.

A consultation document was issued in Wombourne Library last month. It read: "In Wombourne we can have our own henge providing a day to day meeting place which becomes a place for gatherings, performances and even jumble sales.

"The idea is to use a simple design with most parts the same size that can be handled by volunteers who want to be associated with this bold community statement."

A donation for each of the 48 pieces of wood needed – costing £50 each – was invited from Wombourne groups and residents.

Councillor Williams, who has served on South Staffordshire Council since 1995, said: "People were saying they were concerned it would attract youths who might misbehave.

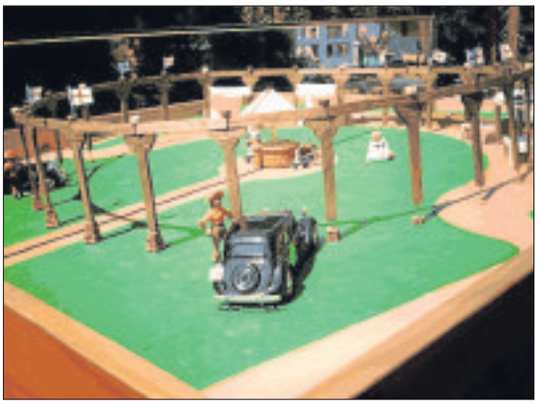
"There wasn't a great response to the consultation and it wouldn't have been right to go ahead when so many people were against it.

Materials

"Some people were quite distressed at the idea that it would be near their homes and we have to respect that."

He said the land was owned by South Staffordshire Council and the cost was just for the materials.

Initially the response was about 10 to one in favour when the idea was proposed at Wombourne Carnival, but wider consultation saw support fall away.



An artist's model of how the Woodhenge project in Wombourne would look

The site where it would have stood

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NEWS

Leaders say market has lost original specialist aim

BUSINESS leaders are calling for their town's farmers' and crafts market to be stopped or improved, claiming it lacks the stalls to justify its name.

Halesowen Chamber of Trade and the town's Cornbow Shopping Centre claim it has now become a 'general market' which does little for town business.

The opposition was sparked after the market organisers Bescot Promotions applied to renew the event's licence for another year.

Steve Evans, from the market firm, said the event did support the town, adding the town business figures should get behind it.

He said: "It is difficult – there are more craft work stalls than farmers' markets nowadays, but I do not just bring any stall holders in.

"I believe over the years the market has improved and we have a better bunch of traders than ever before."

He added: "The objections do disappoint me because after all these years they still cannot get on board and get behind the market." But chairman of Halesowen Chamber of Trade, Steve Fitzpatrick, said he could no longer support the market in its current state.

by Alex Ross

He claims it fails to meet the licenced quota of providing 25 farmers' and crafts stalls out of the 35 allowed.

He said: "The market isn't a farmers' and crafts market anymore – it's a general market. This isn't want we asked for and I'd rather have no market at all. What kind of farmers' and crafts markets do you see double glazing, rugs and carpets, squeeze mops and jewellery being sold at?"

Tea room plans for site

A PROPOSAL has been submitted to Dudley Council to open a tea room at the Swinford Timber Supplies site in Hagley Road, Oldswinford. The property, which includes an upstairs two-bedroom flat, is on the market for £185,000. The council is due to make a decision next month.

Treasures abound in antiques shop

From left, John Tee, owner Brian Smith and Drew Pritchard

A TV treasure hunter has rummaged through the wares of a Black Country antiques shop in a bid to find hidden relics to restore to their former glory.

Drew Pritchard and his team from the Quest TV programme Salvage Hunters visited the Bridale Architectural Antiques shop in Cradley Heath last week.

Presenter Mr Pritchard along with his sidekick John Tee travel the country visiting various shops, warehouses, homes and buildings, hoping to uncover a bargain.

This week they have been filming for the fourth series and have already visited Wollescote Hall and Donington Hall, before the nine strong team descended on the Graingers Lane shop. Brian Smith, aged 69, who has owned Bridale Architectural Antiques for the past 30 years, said he was delighted to be approached.

The father-of-two and grandfather of five said: "I have watched the programme for ages, and I love all these types of antiques programmes and so was very pleased when they said they wanted to come."

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NEWS

Joy for fitness group after £360,000 lottery fund grant secures its future

HUNDREDS of older people are celebrating after a lottery grant of almost £360,000 guaranteed the future of a group that helps to keep them fit and active.

Zumba, tai-chi, drama, line dancing, tennis, Spanish and seated exercise are just some of the activities run by Age UK Dudley's Springboard to Health and Wellbeing project.

The group had been fundraising desperately to plug a funding gap and keep its centres going as it waited for news of the bid for National Lottery money. And now members have received the news they had been waiting for – they have been granted £358,784. Jenny Worwood, Springboard project co-ordinator, said: "We literally jumped for joy. The Springboard to Health and Wellbeing project is able to dev-elop a vast variety of activities, services, trips and social experiences for our current 300 members and we welcome many more to join us."

Volume

Springboard offers a choice of more than 30 activities for people aged over 50, five days a week at three centres across Dudley – in Merry Hill, Brierley Hill and Netherton.

They have proved themselves to be a lively bunch – and earlier this year a 'flash mob' of dancing women, most of them grandmothers in their 50s and 60s, pumped up the volume and strutted their stuff in the middle of the Merry Hill centre.

Regulars at Springboard include Ada Griffin, from Dudley, who recently celebrated her 100th birthday at the Springboard exercise class she goes to every week at Merry Hill. She said: "The class keeps me active despite my age and is a great way to socialise with new friends."

The project also arranges trips, lunches, talks, demonstrations and workshops and has a counselling service, holistic health and beauty therapies, as well as social events.

Springboard costs about £70,000 a year to keep going. But the group's funding ran out in the first week of August and, although members were optimistic that their grant application would be approved, they started fundraising just in case it was turned down.

A sponsored zumbathon by 30 members and staff at Brierley Hill Methodist Church raised more than £1,300 and other events brought the figure to around £5,000, which paid the bills until the lottery grant came through.

Other activities that helped the cause included a summer lunch, a scone tea party, raffles, tombolas and an art and photography exhibition.

"Thanks to the wonderful and generous community of Dudley, recent fundraising events have been so successful raising over £5,000," said Jenny.

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NEWS

Fans gear up for 100-mile drive

From left, Sam Leason, Neil Abel, Robert Blane and John Fox of Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire Car Club

Classic wheels to get in motion

CLASSIC car fans are gearing up for a 100-mile drive on some of the region's most scenic roads this weekend.

Wolverhampton & South Staffordshire Car Club is running a car tour on Sunday to raise funds for Wolverhampton MS Therapy Centre, which is the club's nominated charity.

And motoring enthusiasts will have the opportunity to take part in a gentle run along the best road in South Staffordshire and parts of Shropshire, with the route taking in Severn Valley.

The car tour – which will feature revered motors such as a BMW 840 and a Lotus Cortina from 1967 – starts from Wolverhampton Airport in Bobbington and goes through Kinver, Wolverley, Bewdley and Wyre Forest.

Barbecue

A stop for lunch in Bridgnorth follows, before the second part of the route takes in Wenlock Edge and Much Wenlock, before the cars swing by Ironbridge and head towards Pattingham before finishing at the Hollybush in Ebstree Road, Trysull, for a barbecue. Course clerk Robert Blane encouraged as many people to sign up to the tour as possible, with even non-club members invited.

"It's open to everyone – all and sundry can turn up if they want to," the 58-year-old Perton resident said.

"Classic car tours are becoming quite popular now. On Sunday the route will be 100 miles of roads and scenery." Visit **www.wsscc.co.uk** or call Mr Blane on 01902 759284 to enter.

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NEWS

Petition launched to protest at court plan

A PETITION has been launched in a bid to save a criminal court, which has been threatened with closure as part of sweeping proposals in the West Midlands.

Ian Austin MP branded plans to shut Dudley Magistrates' Court to criminal cases as an 'outrage' and vowed to fight the proposal.

The Labour MP, who represents Dudley North, voiced his dismay at the proposals, which he said would leave the town without a criminal court for the first time in more than a century.

He says the scheme would also mean Dudley was the largest town in the country without a criminal court and urged people to sign the petition.

Redundancies

All criminal casework would cease at Dudley Magistrates' Court, in The Inhedge, under the radical overhaul proposed by the Ministry of Justice.

Instead defendants in the region would have to travel to Sandwell and Walsall to have their cases heard. Meanwhile all trials in the Black Country would instead go to Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court along with youth cases.

Dudley would become a civil, family and tribunal centre under the scheme which is out to consultation until October 21. Mr Austin said he feared for redundancies because of the shake-up and said it was another blow to Dudley after its police station was closed overnight.

"These plans are an outrage and should be dropped immediately," he said. "Dudley's police station was closed at night despite opposition from thousands of local people, and now we're set to lose our criminal court too.

"Dudley would end up the largest town in the UK without a criminal court when we should be moving more services into the town centre, not taking them away. Dudley's had a criminal court for as long as I can remember, and it's important justice is seen to be done locally, with local people seeing those who break the law in their community punished.

"If criminal hearings move elsewhere it will be harder for local victims to testify, harder for local people to volunteer in court and harder for the press to deter crime by reporting on local cases. It could also mean that people working in the court have to move or be made redundant."

Anyone wishing to sign the petition can do so by visiting Mr Austin's website, contacting him through email at austini@parliament.uk or by calling 01384 342504 for a form.

Leading magistrates and solicitors have also raised their concerns about the scheme with the six-week consultation under way.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed and MP Ian Austin signing a petition to save services at Dudley Magistrates Court, with campaigners

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Denture Clinic

Infectious laugher, happy moments and enjoying 'me' time – meet denture implant couple John and Gillian.

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Transformations

Steven Burchell
Dip CDT RCS (Eng)
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LOVE is a second chance of romance, embracing life and sharing smiles – lots of them. For retired couple Gillian and John, sharing time together, enjoying holidays, meals out and trips to the theatre, life has opened an unexpected new chapter of happiness after they both lost their partners.

Their laughter is infectious and their zest for life inspirational. The widow and widower, both young 70-somethings, met at a mutual friend's golden wedding party and the rest, as they say, is history.

But John didn't only discover a new soul mate, he also found a new patient for denturist Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS (Eng).

Principal of the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley, Steven says: "They're such refreshing company and I am thrilled they are so happy together.

"But I'm also pleased we were able to resolve a long-standing lower denture problem for Gillian as well as create a lovely warm smile for her that suits her personality."

John recalls he was first to attend the Denture Clinic after spending nearly four years "perusing stories in the papers" about Steven's work.

Like many denture wearers he had encountered stabilisation problems with his lower denture as gums receded with the normal ageing process. "I knew I had to get something done because when I was driving my lower teeth could dance up and down," says John.

Crunchy salads

Steven referred him to dental implantologist Jon Pugh BDS MSc, with whom the denturist has along-standing professional relationship.

"I decided to go for an implant-retained over-denture which clips on to two fixings. I would never let anything stop me from enjoying a meal out before I had the implants, but things are great now. I can have steak, eat crunchy salads and feel free to have anything off the menu," he says.

Gillian had endured a similar stabilisation problem for two years and was persuaded by John to see Steven because her dentures "were always loose."

Again an implant-retained over-denture was prescribed and Mr Pugh also rebuilt Gillian's upper front teeth with crowns. The results are obvious: Natural looking, functional teeth and an engaging smile.

"Previous dental treatment could never resolve my problems. If I ate out I'd have to order soft options , but I put up with it," says Gillian.

"We laugh a lot, smile a lot and enjoy life. This is my 'me' time," she adds.

And what of their experience at the Denture Clinic? "Steven is like family to us," says John.

Steven added: "By using implant retained over-dentures we can guarantee to resolve stability issues. We prescribe and produce our dentures on the premises and it means I can be fastidious about quality."

Options

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NEWS

Roll out barrel for beer event

BEER lovers from across the Black Country will be able to sample their favourite brews at a beer festival at the weekend – while at the same time raising money for a scout group and two charities.

The two-day Sedgley Beer Festival will take place at Jubilee Hall in Ladies Walk, Sedgley tomorrow and Saturday.

There will be more than 20 real ales on offer at the event, which is believed to be the first ever beer festival in Sedgley.

Children

The festival has been organised by First Sedgley Scout Group and 1st Sedgley Morris Men, which both meet at Jubilee Hall. Cash raised will go to the scout group's work to build a log cabin-style room at the back of the hall and refurbish the venue's toilets. Money will also go to Children in Need and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust, which is the morris dancers' chosen charity of the year.

David Baugh, chairman of the scout group, said he hoped the event will raise £2,000.

He said: "We are surrounded by award-winning beers and breweries with amazing stories to tell, we want to celebrate the revival in real ale, for charity. I hope this will start a traditional beer festival in Sedgley that will run for many years to come."

From left, David Baugh, Ian Foster, Paul Reynolds, Colin Foster, and Pat Foster

He added: "We have some great causes to support so I hope we get a really good crowd. We have a lot of beer coming in, so it's either going to be all gone on Saturday night or we're going to be left to get very merry."

The festival will be supported by volunteers, including Ron Reynolds, who is landlord at the Horse and Jockey in Cinder Hill. Food will be available and live music from local band Starving Dogs on Saturday

The band plays classic 70s and 80s rock. The £10 entrance fee includes tickets for drinks, a programme of all the beers, a branded festival glass.

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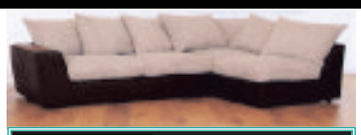
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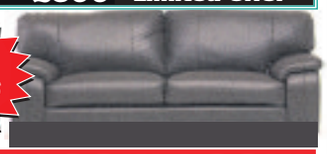

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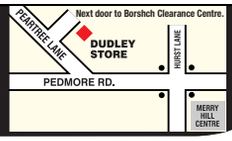

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SINGLE LADIES

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(T&C's below)

LOVING caring young 66yr old female, 5ft 2ins, size 12, blonde hair, GSOH, seeks knight in shining armour 58-62 with GSOH. Walsall. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 340763**

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113**

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003**

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great Summer with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765**

SINGLE female, 43, seeks kind, considerate male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406449**

HONEST beautiful black female, N/S, seeks honest, caring, white man, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405395**

GORGEOUS black attractive female, N/S, seeks genuine caring white male, 40-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405887**

CLAIRE 18 single with OHAC looking for mature relationship with male 40-50yrs to pamper me and show me a really good time. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407483**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

LINN young looking divorced female, attractive, honest, caring and reliable looking to meet similar N/S animal loving male to enjoy happy times, tlc, hopefully ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407473**

TALL dark, handsome male, 54, WLTM female, any age for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407559**

SLIM active lady, 60's, N/S, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693**

BECCA 5ft 9ins, curvy, good job, seeking black/mixed race male, 35-45, 6ft plus. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391693**

SARAH slim, honest, caring, attractive looking for that special guy to spend special times with, looks unimportant, similar lonely hearts need only apply. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407507**

SUSIE, seeks fifty shades of grey with guy any age but must be discreet, call and I will explain why. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 407321**

SALLY neglected 27yr old single female looking for genuine guy to help mend my broken heart and enjoy lots of adult fun times along the way. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407499**

5FT 10ins slim brunette female with GSOH, Down to earth, fun and quirky, looking for similar male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403991**

ARE you my Knight in shining armour? Young 65yr old female, smoker, seeks genuine guy, 55-60 who is slim in Walsall area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376742**

ANNE 57, nurse, 5ft 4ins, likes swimming, cooking, countryside, looking for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405645**

SARAH 24, brunette, brown eyes, attractive, slim, smart, seeks male with GSOH, 30's in Kidderminster area for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406139**

LARGE female, seeking male for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406027**

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985**

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818**

JANE attractive, seeking male for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403807**

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852**

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651**

PATRICIA likes travel, cooking, socialising, seeks honest, sincere white male, 40-55 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402053**

FEMALE looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169**

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405277**

46YR old black British female, 5ft 4ins, seeking male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404987**

WOMAN 55yrs old, N/S, size 14, likes animals, nature, reading, TV, quiet life, seeks man 45-55, N/S for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404447**

WIDOW young hearted 70's, N/S, likes reading, concerts, gardening, meals out, WLTM younger gentleman with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404177**

48YR old attractive female seeking local fun maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403947**

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979**

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTM male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681**

FEMALE 50, 5ft 7ins, average build, fair hair, easygoing, seeking tall, slim male, 47-55. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395793**

SEXY mature female, in great condition, but has been without for far too long! Looking for intimate adult fun without commitment. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358186**

FEMALE 41, 5ft 7ins, seeks male for nights in/out, romance and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397361**

GAIL 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041**

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923**

SHY lady, 38, seeks understanding, genuine, sincere male, 40-45 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400981**

66YR old widow, seeks male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393436**

SINGLE MEN

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 60109.
(T&C's below).

BROADMINDED 67yr old male, fit, active, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks N/S female, open minded, 62-69 for genuine LTR. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407785**

MALE 50, likes country walks, nights in/out, swimming, meals out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393157**

40YR old male, seeks female, 30-40 in Leamington Spa/Rugby area for romance and LTR. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407551**

TONY 32, honest, caring, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407395**

JOHN 50, seeking mature female for no strings daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394148**

MALE likes pubs, socialising, football, seeking black female, 46-57 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407595**

HONEST black Male, 45, tall, slim build, caring, quiet, seeks nice, quiet white lady, large build to share all the good things. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341691**

SINGLE male, youthful, serene, seeks similar down to earth non materialistic female to become everlasting soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407711**

MALE 58, good looking, placid, seeks honest, loyal, caring female with view to becoming soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400313**

HANDSOME chap, looking N/S female for fun and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407631**

PATSY 50, decent looking, seeking any aged female for company. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407373**

MALE 41, honest, caring, seeks female, 18-55 for friendship, maybe more, must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407677**

PAUL slim, attractive 48, willing to give his last rolo to lady 35-55. Halesowen. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375897**

BROADMINDED 67yr old black male, GSOH, caring, loving, seeks lady, 62-69 for friendship and adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406257**

BLACK Male, young-looking 40s, seeks large white Female, 40 plus, for fun, laughter & good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341689**

JEROME black Afro-Caribbean, 5ft 11ins, slim, intelligent, witty, outgoing, well spoken, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392817**

MALE 5ft 9ins, blond hair, into soul music, WLTM fun loving, caring black female. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404647**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, WLTM genuine, pretty female, 24-42 for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407753**

CHRIS divorced, 55, smoker, seeks female, 30-45 for lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407715**

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157**

SINGLE male 59, no ties, honest, loyal, serene nature, seeks mature female with the view to becoming lifetime soul mates. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 404527**

GENUINE good looking male, 39, seeks sexy, genuine female, 24-42 for adult fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407411**

IAN 5ft 10ins, 55, caring, honest, looking for sincere female with good personality, 45-55, enjoy being out, socialising, meals. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382997**

GAY SINGLES

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www.localgaydate.co.uk

KEVIN 34, 6ft 2ins, blond hair, medium build, toned, young boyish good looks likes nights out, sports, holidays, seeks similar male, any age for adventurous fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 355984**

GENUINE honest, caring male, seeks mature, hairy, bald guy for genuine friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407529**

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CLUB NEWS

Life made easier for the blind

TRYSULL & SEISDON WI

THERE was no meeting in August but several members enjoyed a Treasure Hunt around Wombourne village followed by a meal.

President Sue Cottrell introduced Peter Moodie to the September meeting. He is from the Beacon Centre for the Blind and told a little of its history.

In 1875 Wolverhampton Society for the Blind was formed and in 1926 became Wolverhampton & District Institute for the Blind. In 1963 it moved to its present site near Sedgley, where the new building was built in 2009.

The Beacon Centre has 72 residential apartments with their own kitchens, where people are encouraged to live independently. A day centre offers a wide range of activities such as bowls, pottery, crafts and IT.

There is also a gym and a youth club. Outside activities include ice-skating, meals out and gardening. There is an employment suite to help people find work and the centre offers free advice and the chance to purchase aids to make everyday life a little easier.

After refreshments Clare Preece organised a quiz, won by Jo Johns and Pam Waldren. Rita Brown won the competition for a scented posy.

At the next meeting on October 17, at Trysull Village Hall, the ladies will be making card boxes with Anne Bayliss. The competition is a handmade Victorian style card.

Guest sets stage for return to home soil

WORDSLEY 'M' TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN for the day Wendy Lloyd welcomed everyone to the September meeting.

Federation events, given by Ann Birchell, were of the Harvest Supper on October 9, Music Moments at Norton on October 31, the Carol Service on December 14 and a St George's Day event on April 24 next year.

The lunch club will meet at The Mount Pleasant, Kingswinford on October 7 and the Christmas Meal is booked at the Himley Hotel on December 2.

Wendy introduced Linda Kettle who was to be on 'home territory again' having been born in Rowley Regis. Linda gained an O-Level in craft & theatre set sesign, attended Foley College at Stourbridge Art College doing 'A' Level art and then Birmingham School of Theatre Design.

Moving on to London Linda gained further experience in designing dresses and wigs for stage and TV period dramas, meeting many well-known stars including Sean Connery, when designing part of the set of You Only Live Twice.

Others include Prince Charles, Princess Anne, Cliff Richard, Julie Walters, John Cleese and Bruce Forsyth.

Linda worked at Pebble Mill designing and creating many varied and diverse sets and back-ground scenery for 30 years. Her work on Pot Black led her to meeting all the snooker stars.

James Herriot's 'All Creatures Great and Small' was one of her favourite involvements. Linda brought along models of some of the sets she had designed also many photographs of the programmes on which her sets were used. The next Guild meeting is on Monday October 21 with a quiz and bingo.

Linda Kettle has met Julie Walters and Prince Charles

Update on shoebox collection

GRANGE 'E' GUILD

THE monthly meeting of Grange 'E' guild was held at Grange Court, Stourbridge on September 3.

Chairman Hazel Smith presided. After the minutes and reports were given, Marlene O'Hanlon presented the latest list of items that can be included in the shoe boxes for members to fill for charity.

The boxes may be given to Marlene at the October meeting or at the very latest in November. The completed boxes will then be delivered to a central collection point.

The evening continued with the harvest supper prepared and served by committee members. All members agreed that the evening had been a huge success and the meal was very enjoyable.

The next meeting will be held at Grange Court on October 1 when the guest speaker will be Ian Bott on 'Lost Mansions'.

All visitors will be made most welcome. For further information contact secretary Jean Williams on 01384 832439.

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WELCOME TO STOURBRIDGE DOWN MEMORY LANE

Stourbridge is right on the edge of glorious countryside that has developed naturally over the centuries. The town offers industry as well as attractive suburbs. Stourbridge in many ways could be described as true middle England.

Stourbridge - Sturburg or Stuesbridge as spelt in the 1255 Worcester assize roll - owes its name to the bridge erected across the River Stour, of which until recently formed the boundary of Worcester and Stafford counties.

As centuries went by Stourbridge developed into a prosperous market town with Edward VI in 1482 granting the right to hold a weekly market with two fairs each year. Like many other English towns, Stourbridge became a centre for producing woolen cloth, however the Industrial Revolution of the 18th century saw this decline.

380 years THE TALBOT HOTEL

THE TALBOT HOTEL
History

In the early 17th Century this building was a town house belonging to the Foley family. It was almost certainly half-timbered and remains of the timbering can be seen in the courtyard and inside the entrance. In the 1600's it was known as the Brick House and at the time of the heart tax it was assessed at 10 hearths.

In 1677 when Robert Foley died, an inventory gives the following details of the house.

There was a great hall, an inner room and a great parlour; there was an upper gallery and five chambers on the first floor, and there was a men's chamber and a women's chamber. The furniture in the house was valued at £125. Outside was a six horse stable and seven wagon horses.

The original building was refronted with the more fashionable red brick in the 18th Century. It is three storeys high and at either side of the building. The original courtyard is reached through a rustionted archway which now houses an extremely old and heavy door.

The first reference to the use of the Brick House as a hotel appears in a lease dated December 1685. Samuel Foley leased the building to Jonathon Pyrke for 21 years at £18 a year.

The same Mr Pyrke erected a sign depicting the Talbot dog (believed to be an early Bloodhound). Between that time and 1707 the hotel expanded from 13 to 20 rooms.

A sale notice of 1784 revealed that the Inn had an Assembly room, a court and stable yard and a walled garden behind. The Post Coach stopped off at the Inn and passengers could travel from the Talbot to Holyhead or London. By 1793 a ballroom had been added and a new theatre stood near the Hotel gates.

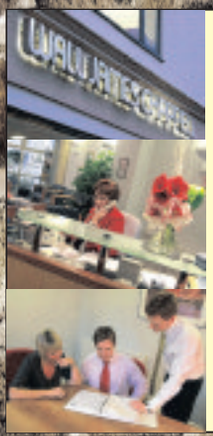
Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries the Talbot served as a valuable meeting place for various public bodies in the town. Bankruptcy hearings, turnpike trust meetings and public enquiries were all held in the Talbot rooms. Frequently there were balls held and for two centuries men and women have been able to take refreshment in the hotel.

280 years NICKOLLS & PERKS

Nickolls & Perks was established in the year 1797. Earliest reference to the building is in a will of 1697. The eighteenth century saw no less than 18 changes of ownership, until 1797, when part of the property was leased to William Nickless. Later it became known as "the Liquor Vaults". The Board Alehouse opened in the 1860´s and was affectionately called 'the corner shop' for people to rest and meet socially. The Board shut in 1976 to accommodate the growing wine business, with the 16th Century cellars making a perfect setting for regular tasting events.

It is now a thriving international business in its third century.

183 years WALL JAMES CHAPPELL



WALL JAMES CHAPPELL SOLICITORS

Wall James Chappell can trace its origins in Stourbridge back to 1830. In 1986 the firms of Wall, James & Davies and Bannister & King merged. The roots of the two Stourbridge solicitors stretch back nearly 200 years when gas lighting was first installed in the town and the Industrial Revolution was getting up steam. Bannister & King was originally founded in 1830 by William Blow Collis - whose only fees for that year were recorded as being £5 9s 2d for the drawing up of a lease! Meanwhile, back in 1865, when Gladstone became leader of the House of Commons, Thomas J.Wall set himself up as a solicitor at 19 Hagley Road. Some 25 years later he went into partnership with George Francis James. James' son, Oswald Leo Wall, also later entered into partnership with Trevor Davies. In 2009 Wall, James & Davies merged with Chappell & Perry to form Wall James Chappell. Percy Chappell started from 14 Hagley Road, his house in 1906!

Today the firm of Wall James Chappell still operates from its office at 15-23 Hagley Road with 8 partners and 40 people.

90 years TUDOR CRYSTAL

45 years BEECHCROFT NURSERIES

Autumn is upon us and it's time to get back into the garden so why not discover one of the regions finest independent garden centres - Beechcroft, The Nursery with the GROW HOW! Located just off the A491 at the Fairfield / Stoneybridge roundabout heading towards Romsley, Beechcroft Nurseries and Garden Centre is well worth a visit.

The business is now operated by Paul Billingham, established some forty-five years ago by Alan Billingham - although a nursery existed in the site some twenty-five years earlier. Their aim is to produce as much as possible of the stock on the nursery for sale on the garden centre, thus ensuring top quality produce at value for money prices.

This is particularly evident in their top quality bedding, basket and container plants (sought after by amateurs and professional alike) and in the vast range of shrubs offered - all fresh from the Nursery. They were one of the first nurseries in the UK to grow and offer true Winter Pansies, which are now available.

The selection of trees from all over the world on offer at Beechcroft is unique and one would need to travel many a mile to even equal their choice. The Autumn is the best time to plan fruit trees for both the patio and garden and you will find an abundance of these at Beechcroft, along with Soft Fruit Bushes.

Beechcroft also features a large range of rhododendrons and azaleas, Japanese Acers, Bamboo, Roses, Alpines, Culinary Herbs, Heathers, Grasses, Conifers both large and dwarf for all situations, outdoor Ferns (ideal for many urban gardens) and Climbing Plants, including a wide range of Clematis and Wisteria.

The collection of country garden herbaceous perennials offered at Beechcroft will bring joy to any lover of these more popular than ever plants. Our choice of the finest bulbs will also enhance your garden borders or container planting.

Terracotta and wooden planters are available in all sizes along with a well-stocked garden shop containing almost everything one needs to care for your garden plus many delightful gifts, garden features, furniture and water features. Plus there are dedicated and knowledgeable staff that will help with any request or problems you may have in your garden.

One visit to Beechcroft will ensure many return visits I am sure!

WELCOME TO STOURBRIDGE DOWN MEMORY LANE

In the 17th century came the introduction of the glass industry. Gentleman Glass-makers from France had been forced to move their glassworks to areas where there was coal which to fire their furnace . Around 1790 The Redhouse glass Cone was built . Standing at 100ft high , the conical building was designed to make the fires burn hotter by channeling air into the furnace .
With ample space this provided an ideal working environment for the glass makers . There were many cones throughout Stourbridge and Dudley , however the majority were found in Amblecote and Wordsley . Eventually many fell into disrepair or were demolished .
However the Red House Glass Cone has managed to remain virtually unaltered in its 200 years history and is now going strong as a local tourist attraction providing an insight into its history and the traditions of glassmaking . The Red House Glass Cone is still 1 of 4 remaining .

60 years Blewe Interiors

Blewe Interiors is a small, friendly, family business run by Pat & Jane

Pat and Gerald, a husband and wife team, took over 92 Worcester Street 60 years ago. The old bakery was turned into a sizeable portrait and commercial studio with the shop being the showcase.

After Gerald died the daughter, Jane, joined the business and Pat turned to her passion for fabric and design. The studio became the work room where she designs and makes up curtains, blinds, throws, cushions, etc.

Jane runs the shop selling interior accessories, unusual and interesting gifts, for both indoors and out, many of which are fair traded.

92 Worcester Street, Stourbridge 01384 393841

40 years Rye Market

ryemarket SHOPPING CENTRE

The Ryemarket has been a prominent part of Stourbridge since 1974 when it first opened. Originally it was an outdoor shopping precinct.

Over the year The Ryemarket has seen many changes, recently launching a fresh new logo, along with some modern twists including new lighting around the atrium and a fresh colour scheme which has brightened the interior of the mall.

Some units within the centre have been given a facelift to make them more attractive to potential tenants, especially as little work would have to be done for anyone wanting to start a business or relocate to the mall.

The Ryemarket has a mix of independent and High Street retailers including Waitrose, Home Bargains, Poundland and Costa Coffee.

For more details about the centre visit www.ryemarketshoppingcentre.co.uk or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/ryemarket or Twitter @ryemarketsc

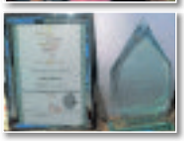
40 years OWS Television Services

O.W.S. Television Services have been trading in Wollaston for nearly 40 years.

They are authorised agents of leading brands such as Panasonic and Toshiba and are also a member of Euronics.
In addition to very competitive prices, they offer a specialist installation service on all their products. So whether it's getting the best out of your Smart TV or Wall Mounting your Television, O.W.S. will look after you.
They currently have some great offers such as a Panasonic 42" Smart LED @ £539 with a FREE 5 Year Warranty.
They also have 3 great offers on Broadband: Unlimited Broadband £5 per month for 12 months OR £3.75 per month for 12 months with Sky TV OR FREE for 12 months with Sky Sports.

They are the only Sky Sales Agent in the Area, so if you have any queries relating to Sky TV then call in for advice.

31 years Balti Dilshad



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WELCOME TO STOURBRIDGE DOWN MEMORY LANE

Wollaston is a suburb of Stourbridge, in the West Midlands, and is within Dudley Metropolitan Borough. It is situated on the border between Dudley Metropolitan Borough and Staffordshire County (South Staffordshire district), and until 1974 was in Worcestershire and is one mile from Stourbridge town centre.

Wollaston is also renowned for The Stourbridge Lion, built in Wollaston which was the first steam locomotive to run on a commercial line in the United States. Built by Foster Rastrick & Co. in 1829, Stourbridge Lion's historic first run took place on August 8th of that year.

87 years Pargeters Fine Furniture

High Street | Stourbridge

Pargeters *Fine Furniture*

Pargeters for fine furniture whatever your needs...

Pargeters in Stourbridge is a fourth generation family business. They've been in the furniture business for over 90 years yet they are far from stuffy and expensive and now they offer a range for people with disabilities. Spread over three floors in the High Street you'll be spoilt for choice whether you want traditional or modern or furniture and beds for specific needs. They stock high quality at competitive prices and offer a personal service that's second to none.

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"You'll be able to choose exactly what you would like. The exact size to suit you and the colour and style you want."

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100 years WINDSOR CASTLE

Our History the brewery first began in 1900, founded by Nathaniel Sadler, the great, great grandfather to Emily & Chris Sadler. The brewery supplied its twelve tied public houses, the most famous being The Windsor Castle Inn, Oldbury, the original brewery tap house.

The Brewery was inherited by Nathaniel's Son, Thomas, who ran the Brewery for a number of years, where he also raised his son, John (known as Jack) who was brought up in the Brew house.

Jack later passed on both his passion and knowledge of brewing to his son and grandson, John and Chris Sadler, now fourth and fifth generation Brewers. The Brewery was historically re-opened during the winter of 2004, 77 years after Thomas Sadler brewed his last pint in 1927.

Now situated in Lye, near Stourbridge, the brewery has once again become a thriving family run microbrewery, owned by Chris Sadler, supplying public houses and supermarkets with Sadler's cask and bottled ales throughout the Midlands and indeed the Country.

The brewery now produce a series of signature ales plus additional Monthly and Seasonal specials, have been presented with numerous awards for the quality of ales and continue to produce ales that people love to drink.

We hope you agree!

Here's to the next 100 years! Cheers!

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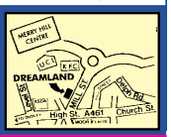

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NEWS

£18m care, health and leisure site opens doors

A LONG-AWAITED new £18 million leisure and health centre has opened its doors.

Portway Lifestyle Centre in Newbury Lane brings together leisure, health and social care under one roof and includes a GP surgery and Portway Family Practice, which will replace the Tividale Family Practice.

The centre also houses a four-court sports hall, a hydrotherapy pool, a sensory room, a climbing wall, dance studio hosting 50 fitness classes each week, 114-station fitness suite and a full-sized, all-weather pitch for five-a-side football.

Councillor Steve Eling, Sandwell Council's deputy leader, said: "The centre's combination of health and leisure services with special facilities for people with disabilities must rank among the best in the country."

The centre is a joint project between the council, Sandwell Leisure Trust, the PCT and Sandwell LIFTCo, aided by a £1.5m grant awarded from Sport England.

Hills alive with sound of dogs

A HOSPICE will benefit as dog owners take to the Clent Hills, near Stourbridge, for a mass 'walkies'.

Proceeds from the event, on Sunday, starting in the field next to Nimmings car park at 10am, will go to Mary Stevens Hospice. There is a £6 donation fee.

Cynthia was quite a catch for Ken

Happy times – golden couple Ken, 73, and Cynthia Lawson, 71, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary

IT HAS been more than 50 years since keen cricketer Ken Lawson bowled his maiden over in the game of love.

Now he and his wife, Cynthia, of Arundel Road, Wordsley, are celebrating their golden wedding anniversary.

Ken, now aged 73, and Cynthia, 71, met at his 21st birthday party, held in their native Sheffield. "There was a spark there and, nearly three years later, we married," said Cynthia, who worked for Boots for 42 years, first in Rotherham and later, for many years, at the Stourbridge branch.

Ken, a pattern maker, began his career making beer pumps at Gaskell and Chambers in Birmingham and ended it at the BoroFoundry in Lye. He was a keen member of the Stourbridge Social Cricket Club.

Ken's family had moved to the Midlands from Sheffield but he returned to his home town for his 21st birthday – and a mutual friend brought Cynthia to the celebration. The couple married in Rotherham before moving to the Midlands. The two have a daughter, Julia, aged 43, grandson, Daniel, 17, and granddaughter Amelia, 13.

The happy couple, and bridesmaids, on their big day

By-election victory for Labour

THE Labour Party has retained a council seat in a by-election which was called following the death of a long-serving councillor.

Grandfather of one and retired welder Clem Baugh will now serve the Coseley East ward on Dudley Council following the vote yesterday.

The 71-year-old said he has 'big boots to fill' as he takes over from George Davies, who died aged 75 earlier this year after serving the ward for more than 30 years.

Councillor Baugh won the election with 1,053 of the 1,896 votes. UKIP candidate Star Etheridge came second with 478 votes.

Accepting his victory, Councillor Baugh, from Dimmocks Avenue, Coseley, said: "I know I've got big boots to fill, but I will do my utmost to do so, along with my two colleagues."

£27,000 gives a new lease of life to St John's HQ

A DISUSED building has been brought back to life thanks to a £27,000 cash injection to launch a new business at the premises.

More than 100 people are already on the books at Just Straight Talk, based at the former St John's Ambulance headquarters in the grounds of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Coseley.

by Lee Watton

The organisation works to get residents back into education and employment.

And the firm, which is run independently from the church, has already helped some residents set up their own businesses as social enterprises.

Bosses from the company have now received almost £5,000 from supermarket giant Asda to help in its work.

Residents signed up to the company are asked what job or educational course they want to pursue and are then given advice and support to help them find employment.

Bosses carried out extensive works to the inside of their new base with funding supplied by Asda, the Department of Work and Pensions and the Baptist Union.

Work to the exterior of the building, including the fitting of new windows, was carried out by the baptist church. Company director Chris Campbell said: "We are delighted to have received this £5,000 from Asda. It will be a real boost for the people using the company. We already have a number of people on our books.

"We are different from a job centre in that we ask people what they actually want to do. We then use our resources to provide advice and support.

"The site in Coseley is perfect for the company's needs. We were able to get help from funds and grants in the area.

"So far it has proved very successful and we are delighted so many people have signed up."

Mr Campbell said the company rented the building from the baptist church.

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Saturday Night from £129.95 **Dine and Dance from £139.95**

Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and a disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket, overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel, with full English breakfast (plus dinner for Dine and Dance options). Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

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These popular theatre packages to the West End depart from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade. Two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply) and a top priced ticket for a Friday evening performance for the Theatre Showstopper package or choose your price band for the Saturday evening performance with the Theatre Weekend package.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*

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For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel

Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Viva Glasvegas at The Slade Rooms

GLASWEGIAN rockers Glasvegas, who made a big noise in 2008 with hit single Daddy's Gone, are returning to Wolverhampton on Friday, October 4, for a gig at The Slade Rooms.

Led by singer and guitarist James Allan, the band are known for his emotional songs rooted in the harsh realities of life.

Recorded in their home city, third studio album Later... When The TV Turns To Static, was released earlier this month.

It is guitar-driven and passionately performed, particularly the tracks Choices and I'd Rather Be Dead (Than Be With You). The nearest to anthems are If and album closer Finished Sympathy.

Tickets cost £15 plus fees, call 0870 320 7000 or see **www.wolvescivic.co.uk** website.

Meanwhile, 1980s favourites The Primitives are at The Slade Rooms tonight and legendary 74-year-old drummer Ginger Baker (ex-Cream, PIL) brings his Jazz Confusion to the Wulfrun tomorrow.

Caro mum-to-be postpones tour

DUTCH jazz-pop singer Caro Emerald, 32, who had a sold-out concert at the Symphony Hall last week, has announced her spring tour including Birmingham NIA date in March is postponed to October 11, after revealing she is pregnant. Purchased tickets will be valid for the new date.

Champagne comedy promises to be a Noel Coward corker

A REVIVAL of Noel Coward's Champagne-popping comedy Fallen Angels, teaming-up stage and screen actresses Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as best friends Julia and Jane, is staged at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Apart from doing wonders for the sales of Phildelphia cheese, Sara Crowe is probably best known as the first bride in Four Weddings And A Funeral. She has gone on to success in West End productions, specialising in Noel Coward plays.

Lover

Jenny Seagrove is a familiar face as barrister Jo Mills in Judge John Deed but is also a West End regular. She had a starring role in the recent hit revival of Coward's Volcano. Noel Coward's 1925 farce Fallen Angels tells of a pair of bored wives who pop open the Champagne when a mutual former lover decides to call but too much liquid courage leads to unexpected results.

Andrew Lloyd Webber's stunning arena production of rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar, featuring his TV viewer-selected Jesus, Ben Forster, alongside Tim Minchin – the real star as Judas – and Melanie C as Mary Magdalene plus a cameo by Chris Moyles as King Herod, returns a year on from its debut in Birmingham. The Thursday, October 3, spectacular at the NIA will be its final encore.

It's liquid courage for Jenny Seagrove and Sara Crowe as Julia and Jane in Fallen Angels

As The Lion King finally roars off, Birmingham Hippodrome welcomes back its home company when Birmingham Royal Ballet perform a triple bill. Tombeaux, E=mc2 and Still Life At The Penguin Cafe will be staged from October 3 to 5, then Sleeping Beauty arrives.

Perfect nine for South's song legacy

NINE-PIECE band The South, featuring two former singers from The Beautiful South, are keeping alive the repertoire from the 20-year career of one of the UK's favourite bands of the 1990s.

After The Beautiful South split in 2007 and main frontman Paul Heaton went solo, fellow founder Dave Hemmingway and Alison Wheeler, who had replaced Jacqui Abbott in 2003, decided to carry on with the help of several stalwarts from the touring band.

Debut

They will be performing songs from their debut album Sweet Refrains plus such Beautiful South favourites as Rotterdam, Don't Marry Her, You Keep It All In, Perfect Ten and many others at Bilston's Robin 2 venue at Mount Pleasant on Tuesday, October 1.

Call the box office on 01902 401211.

Singers Alison Wheeler and Dave Hemmingway with members of The South, continuing the music of The Beautiful South and coming to Bilston's Robin 2

GAME REVIEWS

Saints and the sinners

Grand Theft Auto V (18, Rockstar)

PEOPLE queued at midnight to get this game and, in a grim case of life imitating Grand Theft Auto, some were even mugged for their copy.

GTA upsets moral guardians, although they probably don't get its dark humour. The series is violent, sweary, morally dubious. So is part five and that will please fans.

Does GTAV live up to the hype accorded a 170 million dollar blockbuster? Oh yes. Rockstar have put the money on screen, creating the massive open-world arena of Los Santos, an alternative Los Angeles. The visuals are stunning and the freedom to explore the city, though partly an illusion, is liberating.

Gamers can choose from a cast of crooks as they play a part in an action-packed crime drama that doesn't let up from the first flashback bank heist.

Saints Row IV (18, Volition)

A CRAZY alternative to Grand Theft Auto. The graphics are not perfect but SRIV is a fun spoof of GTA and its clones.

Street gang The Saints have made it to the White House after saving the US from nuclear apocalypse – in an action-packed prologue – and then face an alien invasion. As one of the characters says: "The Saints don't do subtle".

Reviewed on X360 **LB**

What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 28.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Jack Donnelly

Atlantis
BBC1, 8.25pm
The Beeb's fantasy adventure replacement for Merlin focuses on a young lad called Jason (played by Misfits and House of Anubis star Jack Donnelly) who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace. Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Mark Addy and Sarah Parish also star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.00** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **5.30** I Love My Country.

6.15 Pointless Celebrities. With Colin Baker, Pam Ferris, Martin Jarvis and Matthew Kelly.

7.00 Strictly Come Dancing. Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host the second of this weekend's live shows, as the remainder of the couples take to the floor.

8.25 Atlantis. New series. Fledgling hero Jason goes in search of his father, only to be washed up on the shores of a mysterious land. Fantasy drama, starring Jack Donnelly and Mark Addy.

9.15 The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws. Matt Johnson presents as the balls are set rolling.

9.25 Casualty. Iain helps a teenager who was caught up in a fatal car crash as he struggles to face up to the truth, while Fletch decides to shoulder the blame for Tess's mistake.

10.15 BBC News; Weather.

10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea and Swansea City v Arsenal; National Lottery Update.

11.55 The Football League Show. Highlights of the latest games in the Football League.

1.10 Weatherview. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.30 Film:** From This Day Forward. (1946) **8.00 Film:** A Damsel in Distress. (1937) **9.40** Reel History of Britain. (R) **10.10** The Life of Birds. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Industrial Age. (R) **11.30** University Challenge. (R) **12.00** The A to Z of TV Cooking. **12.45** The Hairy Bakers. **1.00** Live MotoGP. **2.05** EastEnders. **4.00** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **5.15** Flog It! (R)

6.00 The Wonder of Dogs. (R)

7.00 Dad's Army. The men head off for a weekend at a training camp. (R)

7.30 Count Arthur Strong. The former variety star is offered a bit-part in a radio play. (R)

8.00 The 70s. Historian Dominic Sandbrook examines the decade, touching on the housing boom, the arrival of thousands of Ugandan refugees and the 1972 miners' strike. (R)

9.00 Mock the Week. With Rob Beckett, Romesh Ranganathan and Josh Widdicombe. (R)

9.30 The Sarah Millican Slightly Longer Television Programme. Extended edition, with Quentin Willson, Bradley Walsh and Richard Osman.

10.10 Dara O Briain – Craic Dealer. The comedian in performance at Edinburgh Playhouse.

11.10 Film: Wonder Boys. (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas.

12.55 Film: Distant Voices, Still Lives. (1990) **2.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Saturday Cookbook. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.35** Surprise Surprise. (R) **12.35** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.20** Catchphrase. (R) **2.05** Doc Martin. (R) **3.05** The X Factor. (R) **4.05 Film:** Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) **5.55** Regional Programme ; Weather.

6.05 ITV News; Weather.

6.20 You've Been Framed and Famous! Harry Hill narrates a selection of the best celebrity lookalike clips sent in by viewers, featuring people resembling Tom Cruise, Britney Spears and Prince Harry. (R)

7.20 Stepping Out. The final, featuring a performance by Diversity. Last in the series.

8.20 The X Factor. The singers who impressed at the double auditions now face a tougher challenge as they gather at Wembley Arena for the first part of boot camp.

9.50 Through the Keyhole. Larry Lamb and Emma Bunton join Dave Berry on the panel.

10.50 ITV News; Weather.

11.05 Film: 10,000 BC. (2008) Fantasy adventure, starring Steven Strait.

1.00 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.4** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 British F3. **6.40** The Grid. **7.05** The Great North Swim. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** The American Football Show. **10.05** Frasier. (R) **10.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **11.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Simpsons. (R) **12.30** The Secret Millionaire USA. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Jilly Pollock hosts the fifth and final party in Liverpool. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. Comic-book drama co-created by Joss Whedon, in which Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) assembles a group of highly skilled operatives to investigate strange new cases. (R)

8.00 Grand Designs. A Marine who was seriously injured in Afghanistan begins a project to build a specially adapted home with a cutting-edge design, on a budget of £250,000. (R)

9.00 Film: The Taking of Pelham 123. (2009) Criminals hijack a crowded New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid $10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington and John Travolta.

11.10 Film: Hitman. (2007) Action thriller, starring Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott and Olga Kurylenko.

1.00 Film: The Informers. (2008) **2.35** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.45** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Blancpain Endurance Series.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Megaforce. **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Animal Maternity. (R) **12.15** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.15 Film:** Columbo: Caution – Murder Can Be Hazardous to Your Health. (1991) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.10 Film:** The Kentuckian. (1955) Western, starring Burt Lancaster. **5.15 Film:** The Magnificent Seven. (1960) Western, with Yul Brynner, Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Charles Bronson.

7.45 Film: The Wonderful Country. (1959) A tough lone gunman returns from exile in Mexico to take on risky work with the Texas Rangers patrolling the border. Western, with Robert Mitchum, Julie London and Pedro Armendariz.

9.40 5 News Weekend.

9.45 Film: Point Break. (1991) An undercover FBI agent infiltrates a Californian surfing gang to investigate a spate of armed robberies. Kathryn Bigelow's thriller, starring Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze.

12.05 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. Michaela Strachan tries to survive on a desert island. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. A visit to a radio station ends badly. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. Disaster strikes at Silver Hatch when Big Chris falls asleep on the job. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. A piglet grows tired of her brother. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. Double bill. Clara thinks she has laid an egg. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. Hellie makes an emergency landing. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. Francis's grandma comes to visit. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Robin Hood **7.45** Doctor Who **8.30** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **9.00 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003) **11.15** Family Guy

BBC Four
7.00 Africa **8.00** Lost Kingdoms of Africa **9.00** The Young Montalbano **10.50** What's Going On? The Life and Death of Marvin Gaye **11.50** Charles Bradley: Soul of America

ITV2
3.00 Peter Andre: My Life **4.00** Kings of Leon: The Hot Desk **4.15** You've Been Framed! **5.45 Film:** Happy Feet (2006) **7.50 Film:** Evan Almighty (2007) **9.50** The Xtra Factor **10.50** Celebrity Juice **11.40** The Magaluf Weekender

ITV3
2.05 Film: The Count of Monte Cristo (2002) **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Foyle's War **9.00** Midsomer Murders **11.00** Wire in the Blood

ITV4
1.25 Film: Spartacus (1960) **5.10** British Superbike Championship Highlights **6.10 Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.00** Hornblower **10.20 Film:** Schindler's List (1993)

E4
4.05 Rules of Engagement **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **7.30** Suburgatory **8.00** New Girl **9.00 Film:** Marley and Me (2008) **11.20** The Big Bang Theory **11.50** Rude Tube: Total Fails

Film4
2.50 Von Ryan's Express (1965) **5.15** Meet Dave (2008) **7.05** My Super Ex-Girlfriend (2006) **9.00** Sleeping with the Enemy (1991) Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. **10.55** Alien (1979)

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Those interested in history will be intrigued by the visit to Zululand, passing through Swaziland en route, to reach the haunting battlefields of Islandlwana and Rorke's Drift. In 1879 these two battles, just a day apart, became a defining moment for the British Empire and the specialist Zulu guide will make those desperate encounters come alive.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 29.09.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE

Christopher Reeve

Superman
Channel 5, 6.20pm
Richard Donner's 1978 blockbuster was the first A-list superhero epic in history, and is as entertaining today as when it was released. The movie examines Kal-El's origins; how he was rocketed from his dying home world of Krypton, crash-landed on Earth, raised as a normal teenager, and then went to the city of Metropolis to fight for truth, justice and the American way. The fact it can warm the coldest heart, and leave kids perched on the edge of their seat is testament to how good this 35-year-old classic still is. Christopher Reeve stars.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live 2013. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **3.00** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **3.30** Ronnie's Animal Crackers. (R) **4.00** Points of View. **4.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Britain's Big Wildlife Revival.
6.35 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison visit the Shropshire town of Ludlow during its annual food and drink festival, and Tom Heap looks at the threat posed by non-native plants and animals.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Items at the Royal Agricultural University near Cirencester include a tea caddy used for a budgie's ashes and possibly the last signatures made by Edward VIII before his abdication. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.
9.00 By Any Means. A girl's body is found in the boot of a car belonging to a well-respected judge, and Helen is convinced the accused has been framed by an ex-policeman with a personal vendetta.
10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.
10.25 Match of the Day 2. Highlights of the latest Premier League matches.
11.25 Film: New Town Killers. (2008) Thriller, starring Dougray Scott.
1.00 Weatherview. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 Film: Borderline. (1950) **7.30** Around the World in 80 Gardens. (R) **8.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **11.30** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.00** James Martin's Food Map of Britain. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.15** Live Cycling: Road World Championships. **4.15** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Rugby League: Super League Play-Offs.
6.00 Great British Railway Journeys. The role Weymouth played in the D-Day landings. (R)
6.30 The Great British Bake Off. The remaining contestants face three tasks involving sweet dough. (R)
7.30 The Ginge, the Geordie and the Geek. New series. Comedy sketch show, starring Graeme Rooney, Paul Charlton and Kevin O'Loughlin.
8.00 The Crane Gang. High winds lead to jobs being cancelled across the country.
9.00 The Story of the Jews. The Holocaust and the creation of the state of Israel. Last in the series.
10.00 The Wrong Mans. Comedy thriller, starring James Corden and Mathew Baynton. (R)
10.30 QI XL. Extended edition, with Sue Perkins, Ross Noble and David Mitchell.
11.15 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R)
11.45 Film: Sus. (2010) Drama, starring Clint Dyer and Ralph Brown.
1.15 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.10** Holby City. (R) **3.10** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Babar and the Adventures of Badou. **6.10** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Sooty. **7.35** Horrid Henry. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.15** Bottom Knocker Street. **8.30** Fish Hooks. **8.45** Fish Hooks. **9.00** Big Time Rush. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.25 Film:** Columbo: Dagger of the Mind. (1972) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.35** The X Factor. (R) **3.05** You've Been Framed! (R) **3.35** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **4.35** Downton Abbey. (R)
6.05 Regional Programme; Weather.
6.15 ITV News; Weather.
6.30 Surprise Surprise. A father and daughter are reunited.
7.30 The X Factor. The remaining acts have a final chance to impress Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh before the line-up of the judges' houses round is revealed.
9.00 Downton Abbey. Mary takes an interest in the running of the estate, but meets firm resistance from her father. Lady Rose MacClare finds herself in a predicament at a tea dance in York.
10.05 ITV News; Weather.
10.20 Film: Larry Crowne. (2011) Premiere. Comedy drama, starring Tom Hanks and Julia Roberts.
12.10 Premiership Rugby Union. **1.00** The Store. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** Motorsport UK. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The American Football Show. (R) **7.30** American Football: Hard Knocks. **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.20** The Simpsons. (R) **1.50 Film:** The Net. (1995) **4.00** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.05** Channel 4 News. **5.25** The Political Slot. **5.30** American Football Live. Minnesota Vikings v Pittsburgh Steelers (Kick-off 6.00pm).
8.00 Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. Having moved his cabin to the beach, Kevin doubles the floor space with a new sun lounge, puts up a hammock and dives in London's oldest dock in search of junk to recycle.
9.00 Big Fat Quiz of the 90s. Jonathan Ross, Jo Brand, Sue Perkins, Lee Mack, Bob Mortimer and Richard Ayoade demonstrate how much they remember about the 1990s. Jimmy Carr asks the questions.
10.35 Gogglebox. Some of Britain's most opinionated viewers comment on shows from the past seven days, including The X Factor and The Great British Bake Off. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.20 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. Alan celebrates the show's 100th episode, with chat and music by Justin Timberlake and Rihanna, and boxer David Haye's thoughts about his upcoming bout with Tyson Fury. (R)
12.35 Paddy's TV Guide. (R) **1.15** American Football Live. **4.45** British F3. (R) **5.10** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind: Golf. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.20** Mio Mao. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Slugterra. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** James Bond: The True Story. (R) **1.20 Film:** Vertical Limit. (2000) **3.40 Film:** Close Encounters of the Third Kind: The Director's Cut. (1977)
6.20 Film: Superman. (1978) Comic-strip adventure, with Christopher Reeve and Margot Kidder.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Film: Gone in 60 Seconds. (2000) A veteran car thief is forced to pull off an extremely complex heist to save his brother from the gangster holding him hostage. Thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Angelina Jolie.
11.25 Film: Timecop. (1994) Sci-fi adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.
1.15 SuperCasino. **3.55** Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) **4.20** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.25** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **7.40 Film:** Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Staying in with Greg & Russell **11.15** American Dad!
BBC Four
7.00 Miss Marple **7.50** The Rabbits of Skomer **8.00** Fabric of Britain **9.00** Secret Voices of Hollywood **10.30** Sound of Cinema: The Music That Made the Movies **11.35** Proms on Four: John Wilson's Hollywood Rhapsody
ITV2
2.10 Film: The Lost World: Jurassic Park (1997) **4.40** The X Factor **6.10** The Xtra Factor **7.10 Film:** Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00 Film:** Fast & Furious (2009)
ITV3
3.45 Film: The Railway Children (1970) **6.00** Murder, She Wrote **7.00** Lewis **9.00 Film:** The Life of David Gale (2003) **11.35** Bomb Girls
ITV4
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. The ninth round of the season from Silverstone. **6.00** Goodwood Revival 2013 **7.00** Minder **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00 Film:** Firefox (1982) **11.45 Film:** Memphis Belle (1990)
E4
4.50 How I Met Your Mother **6.15** Rules of Engagement **6.45** The Big Bang Theory **8.10 Film:** The Spy Next Door (2010) **10.00** New Rude Tube **11.00** The Big Bang Theory
Film4
2.55 The Straight Story (1999) **5.10** Ice Age (2002) **6.55** Employee of the Month (2006) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) **11.05** Black Book (2006)

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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY
Hostel, Channel 5, 11pm
Three backpackers travelling across Europe hear of a Slovakian inn where their every hedonistic desire will be met. However, they discover they have been lured into the clutches of wealthy depraved businessmen who pay for the chance to torture people to death. Horror, starring Jay Hernandez and Eythor Gudjonsson. (2005)

TUESDAY
Siege of the Saxons, Channel 4, 1.30pm
King Arthur is betrayed and killed by one of his knights, who has formed an alliance with an invading Saxon horde and intends to seize the throne himself. However, the dead monarch's daughter is rescued by an outlaw, who seeks the aid of Merlin in ensuring the crown passes to her instead of the villainous usurper. Medieval adventure, starring Ronald Lewis. (1963)

WEDNESDAY
Judgment Night, BBC1, 11.45pm
Four suburbanites are stranded in Chicago's tough West Side while on their way to a boxing match. They experience a chilling night of terror when they see a gangland murder and must flee for their lives from the killer, who is determined to leave no witnesses. Thriller, starring Emilio Estevez, Stephen Dorff, Cuba Gooding Jr, Jeremy Piven and Denis Leary. (1993)

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, Friday BBC1, 11.35pm

THURSDAY
Magicians, ITV, 10.35pm
A conjuring double act comes to an end after an unfortunate accident with a guillotine. Set on separate careers, the pair become bitter rivals bent on sabotaging each other's performance at any opportunity - until the prospect of winning a prestigious international contest offers the incentive to bury the hatchet and join forces once again. Comedy, with David Mitchell. (2007)

FRIDAY
Mickey Blue Eyes, ITV, 10.35pm
A strait-laced Englishman falls for a New York mobster's daughter, who wants to escape her family's criminal connections. However, try as he may, he realises there is virtually no way to avoid being drawn into its members' illegal activities. Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant, Jeanne Tripplehorn and Burt Young. (1999)

The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, BBC1, 11.35pm
A doctor is caught molesting a patient and commits suicide, after which his wife has a miscarriage. She blames his victim for her losses and plans to get revenge, infiltrating the unsuspecting woman's house as a nanny and playing twisted mind games to destroy her life. Thriller, starring Rebecca De Mornay. (1992)

Pick of the Week

Legend of the lost city is brought back to life

There are some genres that just fit into Saturday evening's TV schedules perfectly, and being without them seems weird.

Talent shows are a given these days, as are glossy light entertainment programmes. And you certainly can't miss out on a fantasy adventure.

Doctor Who is the granddaddy of them all, but will be off our screens until the 50th anniversary edition, set to be broadcast on November 23rd.

In recent years, the likes of Robin Hood and Merlin have fulfilled the requirement whenever the Time Lord has been off air, but now there's a new show on the block.

It feels as if the Beeb has been showing the trailer for Atlantis every five minutes lately; they've obviously pushed the boat out when it comes to the budget and so are desperate for it to gain a decent audience.

However, what the corporation hasn't done is tell us much about the plot.

What we do know is that it focuses on a young lad called Jason who, while searching for his missing father, is washed up on the shores of a mysterious land, a place where mythical creatures, soothsaying oracles and palaces seemingly built by giants are commonplace.

Although it's a place full of wonder, Jason's new home is also fraught with danger, as he discovers when he's forced to take part in a ritual so dangerous, it could result in death. Heading the cast is Jack Donnelly, and the series is set to make him a star; he will probably already look familiar to fans of Misfits and House of Anubis thanks to his recurring roles on them.

But here he plays Jason, whose life is about to undergo a dramatic change. He's always been an outsider, but finally finds friendship in Atlantis with Pythagoras and Hercules.

But don't panic, although the name of the Greek mathematician will send shivers down the spine of those who tried to deal with his theories about triangles during school lessons, here he's a youngster with a big heart who's about to have a lot of adventures.

He's played by Robert Emms, who most recently popped up in Kick-Ass 2.

Also involved in the three-way bromance is Hercules – but he isn't quite as you've seen him before.

Back in the 1990s, Kevin Sorbo played the legendary hero as a muscle-bound hunk. Here he's played by The Full Monty star Mark Addy, and it's clear that the character is no longer in the peak of his prime.

"I am very excited to be invited along on this epic adventure," says the York-born star. "The scripts bring to life ancient myths with such a vibrancy and sense of humour; I knew I wanted to be a part of it."

Also set to feature are Sarah Parish and Juliet Stevenson; the BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, is certainly impressed by the calibre of those involved.

He says: "The fantastic cast announced for Atlantis is testament to the ambition and scale of Howard Overman's scripts. Some of the UK's best-loved actors are joining our newest talent to take the BBC1 audience to a rich and wonderful world where any adventure is possible."

Jack Donnelly stars in Atlantis, Saturday, BBC1, 8.25pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY
Gadget Man
Channel 4, 8.30pm
For us technophobes, Richard Ayoade is nothing short of a godsend. Trying not to think about the fact that this comedy genius will shortly no longer be on our screens in The IT crowd (sob, sniff), the way he talks us through the idiots' guide to the newest of technology and gadgets is something of a lifesaver. This week, Richard's looking at DIY, something of which he's definitely not a fan. He's testing out the latest safety tools, building machinery and lawnmowers, all of which promise to take the strain and pain out of home decorating. Richard also sets himself a personal challenge; to make over a room in his house using robots and gadgets, thus not having to lift a finger himself.

Broadmoor: The Inside Story
Channel 5, 9pm
Thinking about the type of people it has caged is enough to make you shudder, but Broadmoor is approaching a significant anniversary, having been home to Britain's most notorious killers for 150 years. This two-part documentary explores the history of the world's most famous and feared hospital; from the Victorian era to the present day. This first instalment takes a look at Broadmoor as it is today. Surrounded by barbed wire and high-level security, the facility is home to some of country's most deranged and dangerous minds. In 1863, Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum opened, as the law declared it immoral to blame the insane for crimes and send them to the gallows…

TUESDAY
The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert
BBC1, 10.35pm
This year marked the 20th anniversary of the murder of teenager Stephen Lawrence, but the repercussions of the shocking crime are still being felt. On Sunday, September 29, his life and legacy are being celebrated with a special concert at the O2 Arena – and some of the biggest names in British music are taking part. It's an impressively eclectic line-up, featuring Ellie Goulding, Rita Ora, Beverley Knight, Emeli Sande, Rizzle Kicks, Labrinth, Plan B, Jessie J, Tinie Tempah, Rudimental, Soul II Soul and Ed Sheeran. There's even a bit of jazz for the grown-ups, courtesy of Jamie Cullum. If you couldn't make it to the concert, the BBC are bringing us some of the highlights.

WEDNESDAY
Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm
Flying instructor Colin Mackinnon and his partner, hovercraft instructor and trapeze artist Marta Briongos, love their airfield so much, they have decided to live there too. Their plan is to build an extraordinary metal sculptural home next to the runway, designed by one of Scotland's most acclaimed architects. It's inspired by aircraft hangars, but bespoke metal homes are far from the norm in Scotland, and finding people to do the work is anything but easy. The violent rain, snow, 100-mile-an-hour winds and the worst storms for a century don't help matters, so little wonder the year-long project starts dragging – into its third year. Colin and Marta do everything possible to see their unique project through to the end. But will Kevin like the result?

The Stephen Lawrence Unity Concert, Tuesday, BBC1, 10.35

Science Britannica
BBC2, 9pm
It's the last in the present series of Science Britannica, but we shouldn't get too downhearted – no doubt a new Professor Brian Cox show will be along in a week or two. The reason he's become so ubiquitous is because he's very good at explaining difficult ideas in a way that makes it easy for non-experts to comprehend, without making us feel like we're being talked down to. However, this week he's tackling an issue that most of us should understand – happy accidents. It seems that some of Britain's most impressive breakthroughs were made when the scientists were actually trying to discover something else.

THURSDAY
Mayhem & Mishaps: Britain Caught on Camera
BBC1, 9pm
Forget all those complaints about Health and Safety getting out of control – this documentary could just convince you that you need to get an expert in to risk assess your house. Mark 'Chappers' Chapman takes a break from Match of the Day 2 to look at some of the calamities that could befall us as we go about our everyday lives. Admittedly, some of them look quite funny when they are happening to someone else, as we're treated to a whole host of CCTV and home video clips of people falling over. But others are no clearly laughing matter, as Chapman examines the consequences of DIY accidents, barbecue fires and exploding white goods.

FRIDAY
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Channel 4, 8pm
It's been a long time since Marvel created a hit, live action TV show. However, when Avengers Assemble struck box office gold last year, the time was finally right to exploit one of Marvel's most enduring organisations, S.H.I.E.L.D. (Strategic Homeland Intervention Enforcement and Logistics Division). If you missed last week's pilot, Agent Phil Coulson (Clark Gregg) is back from the dead. He forms a specialised team of individuals to brave the post-Battle of New York world. They include combat and espionage specialist Grant Ward (Brett Dalton), expert pilot and martial artist Melinda May (Ming-Na Wen), and free-spirited computer hacker Skye (Chloe Bennet). This week, Coulson and the agents travel to Peru to investigate an object of unknown origin, codenamed 0-8-4.

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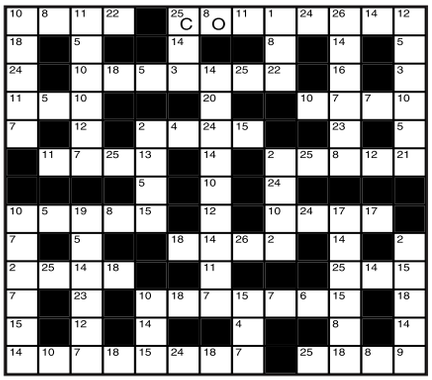
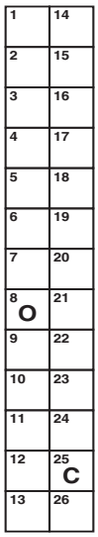
Puzzler

Brain Gym No.240

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



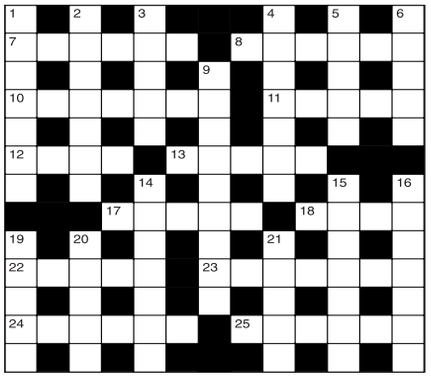


LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1 S	2 D	3 B	4 K	5 G	6 P	7 N	8 O	9 A	10 M	11 V	12 Q	13 F
14 L	15 T	16 E	17 Y	18 I	19 U	20 C	21 Z	22 J	23 X	24 R	25 H	26 W

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.



Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. A line used in malaria treatment (6)
8. Make a choice in this election (6)
10. In my view, a vegetable with very good stuffing (7)
11. A step in the making of dough (5)
12. Give out when it's time to come back (4)
13. An unlicensed receiver (5)
17. Leaves with all debts settled (5)
18. Fairy required, some experience necessary (4)
22. If all plants were this, there would be no great variety (5)
23. Reputation for enjoying poor health? (3-4)
24. He knew where to draw the line (6)
25. High jinks with a saucy flavour? (6)

Down

1. Role man has created as a social worker (7)
2. Tract of the brave New World (7)
3. Odd trio holds a proportion (5)
4. A particular deference (7)
5. Maybe the present state of a nervous person (5)
6. To come up before her is not the same (5)
9. Centaur in doubtful form (9)
14. Ruffian out to provide popular entertainment (3,4)
15. Slackened and became loose in a rush (7)
16. Grant permission to break silence (7)
19. Did little after I'd made the running (5)
20. Give birth to a plot (5)
21. Amphibious cart? (5)

Quick Clues:

Across

7. Skilled (6)
8. Acme (6)
10. Felling (7)
11. Clear (5)
12. Rational (4)
13. Sham (5)
17. Avidity (5)
18. Couple (4)
22. Object (5)
23. Decisive (7)
24. Outcome (6)
25. Venerate (6)

Down

1. Opposite (7)
2. Nominate (7)
3. Exhaust (5)
4. Fervent (7)
5. Nip (5)
6. Obscurity (5)
9. Guiltlessness (9)
14. Squirm (7)
15. Sailor (7)
16. Small truck (7)
19. Narrative (5)
20. Foremost (5)
21. Odd (5)

Sudoku

7	6							1
		5		7		3	6	
	8		6				2	
4	1				5			
5			4		6			9
			9				1	4
	7			6	2		5	
6		8		4		1		2
			7				9	6

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	3	5	7	1	2	4	9	8
4	7	9	5	6	8	1	2	3
1	8	2	3	4	9	6	7	5
2	1	3	8	9	4	7	5	6
8	6	4	2	5	7	9	3	1
9	5	7	6	3	1	2	8	4
5	2	1	9	8	6	3	4	7
7	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	9
3	9	6	4	7	5	8	1	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Wince; 4 Eyewash; 8 Aground; 9 Ether; 10 Drew; 11 Organist; 13 Arum; 14 Loft; 16 Uprooted; 17 Ache; 20 Nadir; 21 Spiders; 22 Wreaths; 23 Eaten. Down: 1 What do you know; 2 Nurse; 3 Etui; 4 Endure; 5 Elevator; 6 Atheist; 7 Horatio Nelson; 12 Autocrat; 13 Abridge; 15 Census; 18 Chest; 19 Hive. QUICK - Across: 1 Egret; 4 Beneath; 8 Banquet; 9 Repel; 10 Lees; 11 Pleasure; 13 Reel; 14 Lone; 16 Habitual; 17 Sore; 20 Erupt; 21 Coronet; 22 Toddler; 23 Error. Down: 1 Embellishment; 2 Range; 3 Tour; 4 Battle; 5 Narrator; 6 Ampoule; 7 Helter-skelter; 12 Teetotal; 13 Rebound; 15 Lancer; 18 Owner; 19 Urge.

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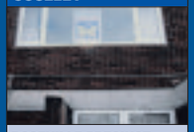

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OLDBURY

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First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Parking, Communal Garden

BRIERLEY HILL

ROOKERY PARK
£565 pcm
Semi-Detached House, Fully Refurbished, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with shower, Gas Central Heating, Part Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking for 2 Cars

GREAT BRIDGE

EAGLE PLACE
£370 pcm
Modern Apartment, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking

NETHERTON

PARK ROAD
£360 pcm
First Floor Flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

UPPER GORNAL

GOODRICH MEWS
£695 pcm
Town House, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, En Suite, Bathroom, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

TIPTON

TIPPS STONE CLOSE
£410 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished

GORNAL

BARR STREET
£510 pcm
End Terrace Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Rear Garden, Unfurnished, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating

OLDBURY

ASTLE DRIVE
£525 pcm
Modern Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, En Suite Shower Room, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Fully Furnished

TIPTON

ANITA AVENUE
£385 pcm
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BRIERLEY HILL

WALLOWS ROAD
£540 pcm
Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking

BRIERLEY HILL

CHURCH STREET
£360 pcm
First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking

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Property

Extended semi is priced at £154,950

This modern semi can be found in Acton Drive, Gornal with offers sought for around £154,950

A MODERN extended semi-detached property in Acton Drive, Gornal, is for sale based on offers around £154,950.

The property is within walking distance of the village centre and has a porch, reception hall, lounge, formal dining area, breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, carport, gas central heating, double glazing and private gardens.

The property is approached over a Tarmac drive with parking to the carport and garage, with on the ground floor a lounge measuring 16ft 3in by 16ft 11in with archway to dining area.

Integrated

The breakfast kitchen is 11ft 9in by 9ft 8in with a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, inset one and a half bowl sink, breakfast bar, integrated oven and hob with overhead extractor and plumbing for automatic dishwasher.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite of bath, shower and screen, WC and wash hand basin on double vanity unit.

Outside the rear garden has slabbed patio and lawn.

Call Bakers Estate Agents for further information on 01384 252527.

Deal agreed for bungalow

This property in Mill Lane, Willenhall, which has been sold for offers of around £210,000 via estate agent Dixons

DESCRIBED as exceptionally spacious and well-presented, this three/four bedroom bungalow in Mill Lane, Willenhall – with no upward chain – has just sold for a price tag of around £210,000.

Agents say that the space on offer which includes a P-shaped conservatory and carport leadsto a wider than usual garage.

Approached over a block paved driveway, the bungalow has a lounge, 21ft 11in by 13ft 9in with patio doors to the rear and an electric fire, with a dining room/bedroom four and inner hallway with plumbing for washing machine and pantry cupboards.

The breakfast kitchen, 10ft 2in by 8ft, has wall and base units, roll-edge work surfaces, one-and-a-half sink drainer with mixer tap, built-in oven and electric hob with extractor over.

The conservatory is 21ft 8in by 12ft 9in with French doors and there are three bedrooms and a bathroom with spa bath and shower over, WC and wash hand basin, plus a separate WC.

Outside the rear garden is laid to lawn with a patio area.

Call Dixons on 01902 477001 to view similar available homes.

TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES

NEW INSTRUCTION

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

STEWPONY COURT STEWPONY

An extremely well presented two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location, the accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and second bedroom, the property benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

COLUMBUS AVENUE MERRY HILL

A prestigious two bedroom furnished ground floor apartment located on the popular Merry Hill Complex. Accommodation comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge/Dining Area, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms - Master with En Suite. The property further benefits from double glazing and central heating.
FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£575PCM

NEW INSTRUCTION

SEYMOUR ROAD LYE

A deceptively spacious three bedroom end Terrace Property situated in an established residential location. The accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, dining Room, Lounge, kitchen and ground floor bathroom. There are three bedrooms on the first floor. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: E

DSS: NO Children: YES Pets: NO Smokers: NO

£495PCM

WOODHOUSE ORCHARD

A One bedroom ground floor Apartment situated in a much sought after residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Porch, lounge, inner hall, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, outside bin store, small foregarden and off road parking.
PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = C DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM

SCAFFELL ROAD AMBLECOTE

A very well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms and refitted family bathroom. The property further benefits from having integral single garage, off road parking, rear paved patio garden, gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£600PCM

ALBERT STREET

An extremely well presented two bedroom Mid Terraced property situated in the old quarter of Stourbridge with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, Downstairs WC and on the first floor there are two bedrooms and bathroom with Jaccuzi. The property is further enhanced by having secondary glazing, gas fired central heating and enclosed courtyard. Viewing is highly recommended. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£595PCM

REDHILL STOURBRIDGE

A desireable three bedroom split level apartment, close to Stourbridge town centre and railway station with accommodation to comprise of: Communal Entrance hall, Private entrance hall, lounge, breakfast kitchen, utility room, bathroom and three bedrooms. The property further boasts Gas central heating, double glazing, communal foregarden with patio to the side and to the rear there is a single garage and driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = E DSS:NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

£595PCM

MADISON AVENUE MERRY

A very well presented two bedroom apartment situated on the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. The accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge/dining area, kitchen, two bedrooms master with en-suite and bathroom. The property further benefits from central heating and double glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = B DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£550PCM

CHEVIOT ROAD

A beautifully presented three bedroom family home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, full alarm system and double glazing throughout as well as off road parking and enclosed lawned rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£550PCM

HAMMERSLEY CLOSE

An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall,lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

CLARENCE STREET SEDGLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING:C
DSS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

SPRING STREET LYE

A Two bedroom End Terrace Property refurbished to a high standard and situated in a quiet cul-de-sac. The accommodation comprises of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, rear lobby, ground floor bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, private driveway affording off road parking & leading to a large garage/store and rear garden with patio, lawned gardens and vegetable plot.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM

CLARENCE STREET UPPER

An extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, downstairs WC, Open plan lounge with kitchen area. Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED
EPC RATING = B DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO

£525PCM

MORVALE GARDENS LYE

A three bedroom semi detached family home benefiting from majority double glazing, gas central heating and a single garage. Accommodation comprises of Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Three bedrooms on the first floor and bathroom. There is a rear enclosed garden with lawn and patio area and fore garden with driveway and integral garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING: D
DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM

WALTERS ROW DUDLEY

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of Kitchen, lounge, Two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C
DSS:MAY CONSIDER PETS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£500PCM

HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A newly decorated, well presented Two Bedroom Semi-Detached property in the heart of Wordsley. Accommodation comprises of Lounge, fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Enclosed rear Garden and newly gravelled Off Road Parking Area is situated immediately behind property. Viewing is highly recommended.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D
DSS:NO PETS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:YES SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM

HIGH STREET HARBOURNE

A Spacious two bedroom first floor flat situated in a busy High Street location with accommodation to comprise of: Private Entrance hall, Lounge area, kitchen area, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear terrace and rear access with staircase to first floor. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM

HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A delightful two bedroom period property situated in a prominent location with accommodation comprising of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear garden and gravelled driveway affording off road parking.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS:NO SMOKERS:NO CHILDREN:YES

495PCM

TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN:NO SMOKERS:NO

£495PCM

DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accomodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E
DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£450PCM

LOWER HIGH STREET STOURBRIDGE

A well presented one bedroom second floor apartment situated in the heart of Stourbridge Town Centre with accommodation to comprise of: External staircase at the rear of the property to the second floor, entrance hall, lounge/kitchen, bedroom and en-suite shower room. The property further benefits from having Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing.
UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM

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BAGLEYS ROAD BRIERLEY HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential location.
Accomodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Inner Hall, Bedroom and Bathroom. In addition there is a small planted Fore Garden, Communal Parking and a Communal Rear Garden with drying area.
FURNISHED/UNURNISHED EPC RATING = E. CHILDREN: No. PETS: No. DSS: No SMOKERS: No.

£395PCM

Motoring

Compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Seat set to put new Leon through its paces

LONG-term tests are about living with a car every day, doing all kinds of driving, and exposing the best and the worst of what real buyers will see for themselves. There are many things that a few hours behind the wheel on a new car launch just can't tell you.

Seat has put a lot of investment into the new Leon in an attempt to cut the gap on the perennial sales bonanza enjoyed by its sister car, the Volkswagen Golf.

While the Golf has become ever more straight-line sensible in its styling though, the Leon has brought together a stunning combination of curves, angles and overall poise to create something that looks much more interesting. The question is: do its real-world talents match up?

This is what I'm aiming to find out by taking delivery of a just run-in five-door Leon for the next six months. I've picked the mid-range SE model, which has a lot of little touches over and above the base S grade version, but is a healthy amount cheaper than the body-kitted and more ostentatious FR. I've also chosen a petrol engine, in light of the incredible work the Volkswagen Group has done to improve the driveability and efficiency of its unleaded-drinking powerplants.

Pages upon pages have been written about the 104bhp 1.2-litre TSI turbocharged petrol and it's fairly well known as a great unit. In light of that, I've opted for its big brother, the 138bhp 1.4 TSI. It's going to be interesting to see whether it can justify the extra £1,050 over the 1.2. They share a road tax band but the 1.2 is four insurance groups lower and allegedly 3mpg more frugal, so I'll be aiming to see whether the higher performance from the 1.4 is worth it.

The new Seat Leon, a stunning combination curves, angles and overall poise

Seat has put a lot of investment into the the new Leon in a bid to boost sales

In terms of options, OU13 YBM has got only the key ones Seat reckons will be most popular with buyers. Chief among them is the Technology Pack, which brings with it full LED headlights – a first for any C-segment car – along with DAB radio and sat-nav courtesy of a good-sized colour screen mounted reasonably high up on the dashboard. Initially Seat dropped the pack's near-£1,100 price to £500, but further down the line it became, amazingly, free of charge.

Technology

The headlights are a big deal for Seat and the market in general and after much deal-making within the VW Group, the Leon has secured first rights to the new technology, even ahead of the Golf and Audi A3.

The idea behind LED headlights is not just that they use much less energy than traditional bulbs or high-intensity xenon lamps; the light the special LEDs create is closer in colour to natural daylight than any alternatives, allegedly making it easier for the human eye to distinguish contrast and movement within the beam. As the nights draw in later this year, I'll have the perfect opportunity to test the theory.

On top of the Technology Pack there are 17in alloy wheels, which certainly fill the wheel arches more convincingly but could also be more exposed to damage from kerbs. I'll look into this and see whether the move was a wise one or not.

Other than that, the car is standard, so with the Golf lined up as a significantly more expensive option and the Skoda Octavia perhaps being bigger than some people want or need, the time has come for the Leon to prove itself within the VW Group. I'm going to pile the miles on it, encompassing driving at every time of day and night, motorway trips, urban scratching, Sunday afternoon blasts and of course the weekly shop. My partner, Laura, will also be driving it, and since most family cars are shared between parents, her opinion will be invaluable. It's game on, Leon, so let's see what you're made of.

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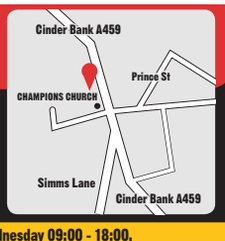

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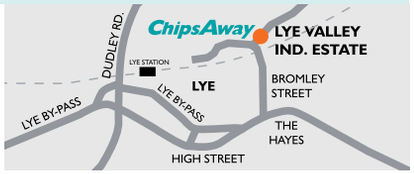

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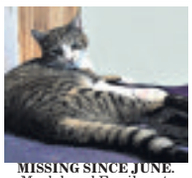

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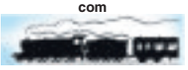

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4 Pets & Animals

equestrian corner

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guns & dogs

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2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

AMERICAN BULL DOG, 8 months old, male, pedigree, genuine reason for rehoming, good home only £150. 0121 602 3838.

BICHON FRISE puppies, fully vaccinated and health checked, £275. 07972 604503.

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01299 269181 or 07564 262371 www.forest-dog-rescue.org.uk

FOUR KITTENS two pure tabby, three white/tabby, wormed, flead. £30 ensures good home. 07790 531984. Dudley.

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KITTENS X3, 8 weeks old, litter trained, wormed, £40 each. 07765 103474.

RAGDOLL AND RAGAMUFFIN kittens, companions and house pets, dog like and laid back, £250. 01902 893617 or 07436 002565.

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SHIH TZU puppy, one bitch left, ready to go, £375. 07885 836618.

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5 Business & Farming

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6 Property

accommodation to let

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BRIDGNORTH, overlooks river, 2 bed furnished flat, CH, parking, £550pcm. 07530 401557.

DSSMOVE.CO.UK the property website where properties say YES to DSS tenants.

DUDLEY TOWN CENTRE One and Two bed flats available. Recently decorated CH, No DSS £410pcm and £495pcm REFs required 07973 123136

GORNAL VILLAGE bedroom 1st floor flat with landing, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage, unfurnished, refurbished, no smokers/ pets £415pcm. 07772 624690.

GORNAL VILLAGE Double bedroom 1st floor flat with landing, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, garage, unfurnished, refurbished £415pcm. 07772 624690.

OLDBURY/Blackheath. 1/3 bed flat/house. Deposit/rent negotiable. 0121 550 0064/07970 980955.

PARKFIELDS 3-bed semi cul de sac location, CH, carpets, new kitchen, DG, no pets. 01902 334051.

THREE BED modern semi, garage, gardens, Wolverhampton, Telephone 07849 233747.

TWO BED FLAT Netherton area, three bed fully renovated house, Brick House Estate. 07976 781003.

TWO NICE ROOMS Part furnished plus bathroom, secure parking, £80pw plus bills. 07816 996225.

bungalows

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01982 551703.

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7 Jobs

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8 Motoring

cars over £1500

BMW 325i Convertible auto, 1989, E30 3 Series, white, black Mohair hood, 11 months MoT, 5 months tax, £2,350 ono. 01902 829438.

BMW 330i SPORT 2004, 98k, taxed, MoT'd, black, full electrics, leathers, CD, excellent condition £3,500 ono. 07961 866051.

BMW CONVERTIBLE 2.5Ci, 2001, silver, blue hood, taxed, MoT'd, light grey leather, 61k, £3,700 ono. 01902 861347.

CHEVEROLET KALOS SE, 5dr saloon, blue, 1150cc, 8,000+ miles, reg Sept 06, 10 months tax/MoT quick sale £2,250. 01384 70379.

FIAT BRAVO 1.4 120T, Dynamic, 2007, petrol, blue metallic, long tax/MoT, 42k miles, excellent condition, £3,750 ono. 07969 743073.

FIAT STILO ESTATE, petrol, 1.6, silver, 2006, 51,000 miles, 11 months MoT, 9 months tax, new front tyres, £1,800. 07985 680270.

FORD FIESTA 1.6 Ti-VCT TITANIUM X-PACK
22,950 miles, panther black, 17ins alloys, full leather, halogen lights, chrome line ext, chrome spots, grille surround and tailgate handle, heated windscreen, auto lights and wipers, cruise control, electric windows and mirrors, climate control/air con, front and side airbags, steering adjust, c/l, pas, abs, esp, eba, CD, tax, MoT, fsh, one owner.
£8,500.
07761 987825.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 TITANIUM, new shape, 05 reg, leather, CD, alloys, alarm, 62k, tax and MoT until May '14, £2,395 ono. 07730 496811.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 Edge 05 reg, 46,000 miles, one owner, fsh, alloys, AC, MoT, excellent condition, £2,600 ono. 01902 836943

HONDA CIVIC TYPE S, 2005, red, 5dr, 69k, Tax, 12 mths MoT, FSH, A/C, half leather. Good condition, £2,995. o.n.o. Call 07817 019703.

HYUNDAI COUPE SE AUTO 2.0
Red, 56 reg, 21,500 miles, electric SR, alloys, black leather interior, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, excellent condition.
£2,995 ono.
01902 755174.

JAGUAR X TYPE
2.5, auto, AWD, 2004, 31,000 genuine miles.
Immaculate condition.
Full MoT and tax.
£4,500 ono.
01384 347635.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER TD4
06 reg, 5dr Est, grey, diesel, manual, pas, TC, alloys, audio remote control, 8 months MoT, 6 months tax, 47k with history, excellent condition, e/w, e/m, a/c, CD. **£6,295 ono.**
07966 388773 (W-ton).

LANDROVER 88
1982, 2¼ diesel with overdrive, rebuilt gearboxes, new clutch, refurbished bodywork, tax/ MoT.
£3,000 ono.
07717 295019

MERCEDES C180 CLASSIC Estate, 2004, 63,000 miles, silver, automatic, MoT, £3,000 ono. 01384 564072.

MICRO CAR M-GO, automatic, 2010, yellow, tax January, 12 months MoT, good condition, £5,000 ono. 01384 486036.

MINI COOPER 54 REG, 42k, silver, fsh, 12 months MoT, new tyres, looks and drives superbly, £4,495 ono. Call 07817 029177.

PEUGEOT 107, 07 reg, 21,000 miles, tax, MoT, 1 owner, a/c, e/w, alloy wheels, £3,995 ono. 01902 885228 or 07754 557861.

PEUGEOT 206 1.4, 16v Sport, 06 reg, 8 months MoT, good condition, £1,950. 07415 653181.

PEUGEOT 206 auto, 1.4, 2003, silver, low mileage, very good condition, MoT Jun 14, tax Oct 13, £1,700 ono. 01384 569520.

PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S, 2007, 48,500 miles, metallic silver, part s/h, MoT, really good condition. £2,995 ono. 07824 616525.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 Envy, 04, met blue, very reliable, lady owner, tax, MoT May 2014, 88k, £1,795. 07792 745990.

RENAULT CLIO
2006, 70,744 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, petrol.
£1,795.
01384 829514.

RENAULT CLIO DCi 68 1.5 diesel, Dynamique, silver, 58 reg, MoT, tax, 33,925 miles, fsh, very good condition, £4,950. 01902 791976.

RENAULT SCENIC Privilege, 1.6, 6v, 55 plate 12 months MoT, great condition, low mileage, £1,950. 07415 653181.

SEAT LEON Cupra, 2003, 6 speed, 78k miles, MoT April, tax Jan, metallic grey, AC, FSH, 6 CD changer, £2,500. 01902 895803.

SKODA FABIA, 2009, 1198CC, 1 owner, full MoT, cheap tax, EW, PS, CD, 5 dr hatchback, SH, 77,000 miles, £3,250 ono. 07400 775276.

BARGAIN
SUZUKI WAGON R 1.3GL
Five door Estate, 2004(04), 27,000 miles only, full service history, one owner from new, power steering, electric windows and mirrors, folding rear seats, long MoT and tax, immaculate silver paint work.
Bargain £2,200.
07766 638809.

TOYOTA RAV 4
2003, Turbo Diesel, 108,400 miles, metallic blue, c/l, pas, alloys, electric front and rear windows, electric mirrors and sunroof, pas, CD/radio, long MoT, tax end of Sept, good condition. Ideal all round car. Get ready for Winter!
£3,000 ono.
07501 189025.

★ **VAUXHALL VECTRA**
Exclusiv, 2007, 58,204 miles, mistry grey, long MoT (Sept 2014), tax Feb 2014, petrol, £3,250 ono. 07765 687957.

star extra TRAVEL

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

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Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Dine and Dance option see the matinee performance before heading back to the hotel for dinner and disco (conditions apply). For the Saturday Night option you will see the evening performance.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

Classified Ads

VW GOLF TDi 1.9

2005, diesel, top of the range extras, red, full black leather heated seats, 12 months MoT, tax, electric windows and mirrors, cruise control, FSH, one non smoking lady owner.

07925 194143. 07940 012098.

ANY TRIAL WELCOME.

VW GOLF TDI, 53 Reg, tax January and MoT August, 78,000 miles, good condition, £2,795 ono. 07969 558684 or 01902 653392.

VW PASSAT ESTATE TDI blue motion, 2008, 99k miles, SH, 2 keys, metallic gray, very good condition, £4,995. 07990 770253.

ZAFIRA LIFE CDTi, 55 plate, new shape, MoT, tax, many new parts, alloys, minor scratches, 129,000 miles, £2,500. 07737 697600.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

AUDI A4 1.6 petrol, silver, x reg, 102k miles, 3 months MoT and tax, good condition, £695 ono. After 5pm 07952 767226.

BMW 316i, black, 5 door, alloys, e/w, a/c, MoT, tax, good condition inside and out, £1,050 ono. 01902 276202 or 07718 337079.

CITROEN SAXO Spree 3, 1124cc, T Reg, 3Dr hatch, blue, petrol, 70k, MoT April 2014, short tax, £495. 01902 741931 or 07572 110076.

CITROEN XSARA LX HDi 2004, diesel, tax Jan, MoT May, perfect runner, clean £650ono. Please call 07932 748933.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO 2001, MoT July, very good condition. £750 ono. 01922 455885 / 07722 970650.

DAEWOO TACUMA, 04, 77k miles, 6 months MoT and 2 months tax, £900 ono. 07929 187628.

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 03 reg, 5dr, tax/MoT, £950. 01902 665559.

FORD FIESTA

2001, 126,000 miles, silver, air bag, MoT, central locking, pas, sunroof, alloys, stereo, CD, petrol.

£750.

07789 748807.

FORD FIESTA Freestyle 1.2, 3dr, 02 Reg (March 2002), 62K, 12 months tax, 6 months MoT, very good condition, £1,100 ono. 07980 424954.

FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX 5door, 1999, Taxed and MoT'd until March. £500. 07771 627981. Kinver.

FORD FOCUS 1.8 ZETEC, silver, 03 reg, 3 door, MP3 addition, 110,000 miles, 12 months MoT, fox alloys, £1,200 ono. 07799 833585.

FORD FOCUS Ghia, 2003, diesel, leather interior, 43,000 miles, recent service, £995. 07769 321934.

FORD KA, 2001, 57,000 miles. Dark red. Tax June 2014. MoT Dec 2013. Reliable. £775 ono. 07779 675583.

FORD KA 1.3, 2002, 77,500 miles, black, fsh, long MoT, £895. 07546 936247.

FORD KA 1.3 52 reg, MoT 14.02.14, good SH, great condition, immaculate interior, new wheel trims. £1,150. 07850 113660.

FORD MONDEO 1.8LX, 2004, graphite, full MoT, 133k motorway miles, reliable, clean, well maintained, £795. 01299 210602.

FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2004, 2.0 engine very good condition, AC, EW, tax, MoT £895. 07460 116516.

FORD PUMA 1.7, 1999, black, 3dr, petrol, 9 months MoT, good condition, £550 ono. 07930 214254.

HONDA PRELUDE black, 1999, 2.0, 54K miles, 1 lady owner from new, immaculate condition, £1,000 ono. 01902 759799.

LAND ROVER FREELANDER, 2001, 3 door, long tax and MoT, £800. 01902 727423.

MG TF 03 reg, 55k, new top, recent service, very good condition, met grey, MoT June 14, tax end of month, £1350 ono. 07850 024417.

MG ZS, hatchback, 2003, long MoT and tax, manual, alloys, stereo, £795. 07950 398750.

MGF CONVERTIBLE. Black, 2001 Y reg, Taxed, MoT'd, 64k. (Engine rebuilt at 62,000 miles). Excellent throughout. £975. 01384 820754.

NISSAN MICRA, 1300, L Reg, auto, 68,000 miles, tax to March 2014, MoT to June 2014, £525. o.n.o. 01902 372560.

PEUGEOT 206, 02 plate, 1.4, Mot, a/c, ew, pas, silver, new head gasket, cambelt, brakes, clean, tidy, £995 ono. 01952 414551.

PEUGEOT 406 2.0 HDi Rapier, Y reg, SH, 4dr, blue, 112K, Saloon, tax Oct, MoT Sept 2014, excellent condition, £975. 07855 372797.

PEUGEOT 406 Estate, 2.0 GLX, auto, 51 reg., 89K miles, MoT July, tax January, new tyres / cambelt, £1,000 ono. 07504 096959.

PROTON PERSONA 1.6XLi 1996, 22,000 miles, new MoT, power steering, electric windows, central locking. £375 ono. 01902 752899.

RENAULT 19 1.4litre, M Reg, 5dr, MoT, Tax, clean, reliable, economical, £375 ono. 07424 464457.

RENAULT CLIO 1.2, 11 months tax, 3 months MoT, excellent condition, £1,300 ono. 07779 827949.

RENAULT MEGANE, 03 reg, 12 months MoT, good condition, £950 ono. 07881 300246.

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 COUPE, 51 plate, 6 months MoT, no tax, service history, 133K miles, £590 ono. 07875 472723.

ROVER STREETWISE, 2004, 83,000 miles, dark red, MoT, 1.4L, £1,250 ono. 07834 183562.

SMART CAR, 51 reg, black and white, left hand drive, MoT July 2014, tax June 2014, £1,350. 07774 470312.

SUBARU FORESTER ESTATE 2001, 4WD, MoT Feb, 120K, good, reliable car, used daily. £1,400 ono. 01543 578160 / 07982 660962.

VW PASSATT 2001, full MoT, 2.0 petrol, auto, excellent runner, £650. 01902 847906.

VW POLO 1.0, W reg, new shape, black, 3 door, 6 months tax and MoT, free delivery, £1,000. 07887 926424.

classic cars

LEYLAND MINI THOUSAND 1976, 11 months MoT, 8 months tax, 60,715 miles, £2,750. 01384 839679.

MGB ROADSTER Fully restored and VW Beetle 1600, 1973, with new floor, both tax free, £4000 the pair, will split. 01922 636898.

commercial vehicles

FORD COURIER VAN 1.8 diesel, 1999, tax, MoT, clean, £475. 01384 626878.

FORD TRANSIT 2001 10 months MoT, four months tax, £1,800 ono. 07527 592477.

FORD TRANSIT V4 2.0 engine, good order, £100 ono. Also other spares available. 01902 829438.

TRANSIT CONNECT lwb, hi top side door, 2004, fsh, new cambelt £2,295 ono. 07769 321934.

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Experience missed after Tideswell injury blow

Otley 36 Dudley Kingswinford 19

DUDLEY Kingswinford last visited Otley in April when the National Two status of both teams was secured. The score on that day was 59 –31.

On this occasion the usual friendly Yorkshire welcome was afforded, embellished by the attendance by the Dudley Kingswinford hierarchy at a gala lunch beforehand.

At this same stage last season Dudley Kingswinford had lost their first two games and were looking to get league points on the board, exactly the same secnario this time around.

Otley kicked off and on 10 minutes scored their first try under the posts by Christopher Gemmell, converted by Mark Ireland.

Shortly after Otley's first try Jon Tideswell suffered a recurrence of a foot injury and after two lots of treatment from physiotherapist Lee Rhodes was replaced by James Ramsey.

Effort

Tideswell's experience at this level of rugby was sadly missed among a team of such inexperience and youth.

After 17 minutes following a penalty, Otley extended their lead.

The effort and commitment of **Dudley Kingswinford** the youthful Dudley Kingswinford team could not be questioned, but at this level of rugby, experience is key and after 30 minutes Otley scored their second try, scored by No 7 Daniel Tamm and converted by Ireland.

On 35 minutes after a fabulous move it appeared that Otley would score a well deserved try in the left hand corner but Luke Greenwood carried out a textbook tackle putting the Otley forward into touch. This was not the end of the Otley first half onslaught.

At 38 minutes Otley scored again through James Wood.

Interestingly the first half penalty count was Otley 6, Dudley Kingswinford 7. Definitely in the first half Otley had the upper hand and the balance of play, but the score flattered.

Converted

Jordan Brookes conceded a penalty and was given a yellow card for DK early in the second half and just nine minutes in Otley broke the defensive line from 10 metres out and scored their fourth try, again by Tamm and converted by Ireland.

Gareth Bown touched down and converted to put DK's first points on the board before, midway through the half, Tamm broke the line and scored again, converted once more by Ireland.

After a series of replacements, DK looked more potent and Liam Marshall scored a try before both DK's Adam Perks and Otley's Tamm were also sin-binned towards the end.

Dudley Kingswinford weren't finished and in the final passage of play James Ramsey's try for DK was converted by Bown.

The overall verdict from a DK persepective was that it was an excellent and entertaining game.

This was Otley's third successive win as they showed their greater experience and maturity.

Boss Rowe delighted as old boy Hill rejoins

Tipton new boy John Hill

FORMER Tipton Town defender John Hill has rejoined the club.

Hill – son of ex-Tipton and current Halesowen Town boss John Hill – is a no-nonsense player who played for Town for several seasons and played a key part in the famous FA Cup run to the First Round.

'Bonky' played for Tipton boss Ian Rowe for a spell at Gornal Athletic and has signed from AFC Wulfrunians where he started the season.

Ian Rowe said: "We're delighted to have got John back at Tipton – he's a player I know a lot about and have worked with before and he's certainly familiar with the club.

"He will be a massive asset for us defensively, especially with us having lost Curtis Tilt to Halesowen Town and with Pete Wood having an injury setback."

Town thank moment of Kinch magic

Tipton Town 1
Stourport Swifts 0

A MOMENT of magic by Mensah Kinch helped Tipton earn a vital win over Stourport Swifts.

Kinch's looping header from 12 yards evaded the grasp of Swifts keeper Haydn Whitcombe.

James Pemberton was called into action when he thwarted Christopher Conway after Rob Perks' attempted header back fell short. On 35 minutes Ben Hadley forced a superb save from Whitcombe with a 25 yard free kick.

Tipton scored the all-important goal on 58 minutes.

Substitute Danny Crudgington could have doubled the lead on the break near the end.

Rodley leads out team for 101st appearance

Stourbridge Saxons 32 Birmingham & Solihull 10

A WELL-earned round of applause from a crowd of more than 600 greeted James Rodley as he led the side out to mark his 101st league appearance.

With a 25-3 halftime lead, the backline again looking sharp and their opponents tiring the Saxons looked set to give their points difference a decent boost in the second half.

But the old heads in a streetwise, dogged Bees succeeded in dragging them into an attritional spoiling game and it wasn't until the 65th minute that the bonus point fourth try was scored. Bees kicked off into a fresh southerly breeze defending the roadside end.

Supporting

With the Saxons pressing an early attack Bees' skipper Will Radburn conceded the first scoring opportunity when he strayed offside in his own 22, Jamie Hearn slotting the penalty kick between the uprights.

Bees pulled the advantage back when Ben Barkley was penalised for a late tackle on Bees' outside half Canning who landed a well struck penalty from wide right.

A Bees scrum offence drew a free kick which scrum half Pete White tapped and ran, the supporting Rodley making a clean line break.

The cover brought him down in Bees' 22 but White managed to work quickly recycled ball to the right despite the attention of **Stourbridge Saxons** Bees' second row Matt Spink who illegally dived over the ruck to deflect the pass.

The ball came to the feet of Page who kicked it neatly through the defensive line and won the race to ground it. Twenty six minutes in and Page dotted down unchallenged for his fourth league try in three games, Hearn converted.

Dipple sidestepped a defender to add to the score, Hearn again converting and a penalty from the same player made it 25-3.

Referee Leahy's patience was finally pushed too far by the Bees' defence in the second half with scrum half Rod Petty sin-binned.

Flanker Rob Connolly grounded for a try, converted by Canning, then Farrington touched down for a try that Hearn converted.

A Bees foray into the Saxons' 22 ended in a penalty concession for obstruction in the lineout, and with a steady flow of substitutions the game lost much of its shape before the whistle signalled five league points for the Saxons

Kristian's looking to have the world at his feet

Kristian Thomas practises on the bars as he prepares for the world championships

GYMNAST Kristian Thomas is looking to the world championships to get his season belatedly on track.

Last year Thomas played a vital role in the British men's team which won bronze at the London Olympics.

However, 2013 has not exactly gone to plan for the 24-year-old from Wolverhampton. A fractured tibia kept him out of April's European Championships in Moscow in which Olympic team-mates Max Whitlock and Dan Keatings both took gold.

Now returned to full fitness, Thomas, who learned his trade at Earls Gymnastics Club in Halesowen, is relishing his return to action at Antwerp from September 30 to October 6 – his first major event since London 2012.

Along with Whitlock and Keatings, Thomas is joined by Dan Purvis, Sam Oldham and Ashley Watson in the six-man squad.

Clegg feels at home in colours of Heathens

DUDLEY Heathens favourite Max Clegg has pledged his immediate future to the club.

Clegg says the fan base, the heritage of the club and its management all combined to convince him he wanted to be a Heathen.

The 16-year-old Yorkshireman has become a big hit with supporters who have taken both he and fellow teenager Nathan Greaves to their heart in their first season.

Greaves, 15, successfully defended his British Under-16 Championship title at Iwade, storming to his third victory of the six-round season to secure glory in the 500cc class.

Heathens now have three rider assets as Clegg joins Tom Perry and Jon Armstrong on the roster.

Continued

Dudley star Lewis Blackbird continued his run of form to bag third place in the National League Riders Championship at Rye House. Blackbird ended the night on 12 points – two behind Steve Boxall and Lewis Kerr.

Heathens were set to launch Tuesday's National League play-off semi-final against the Isle of Wight with a rider announcement.

The club says it will not involve Tom Perry, currently on loan at the Islanders. A decision on his future will be made at the end of the season.

Graham-Shea hits four-timer for Old Wulfs

Old Wulfrunians 7
Stourbridge Town 1

OLD Wulfs maintained their 100 per cent record with an emphatic victory featuring a four goal haul for Nia Graham-Shea.

He opened the scoring on 20 minutes and Rory Harrison quickly added a second.

By the end of the half, Stourbridge keeper Callum Rich had had to work hard to prevent further scoring.

Seconds after half time, Jake Sharman raced through for a third, followed by a sweet volley from Ben Dutton and a great strike from outside the box from Graham-Shea.

The visitors pulled a goal back through Liam Perks but Graham-Shea left defenders in his wake to add two more late goals.

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Gymnast Kristian targeting a return
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Aston glad to see the back of old foe Booth

DUDLEY'S Ryan Aston will be glad to see the back of Tyan Booth after drawing with the gangly tough-man for a second time in a hastily-arranged contest.

Aston boxed at the Olympia in Liverpool on Saturday night, eight days after a bout in Birmingham was scrubbed.

Josef Obeslo, a Czech booked on a bill in the United Kingdom for the first time, tipped the scales a stone heavier than Aston when the two weighed in.

Aston's promoters, Matchroom Sport, got him on their Sky Sports bill at late notice against Nottingham's Booth, who previously shared a ring with him last November.

Aggression

That fight was ruled a technical draw after an accidental clash of heads in the third round and the two could not be separated after six sessions this time.

Aston had found him with a solid straight left in the second round as he answered fierce aggression from Booth, which saw the two middleweights trade blows.

Booth landed a nice right uppercut and a follow up straight right in the fifth, which forced Aston to hang on.

The final bell sounded and referee John Latham ruled the contest a draw.

Chess club whitewash

STOURBRIDGE Chess Club hosed Tamworth in Birmingham division 1. The visitors arrived one player short to give Stourbridge a 1-0 start.

Greg Dyett led the way and a win followed for a 2-0 lead. Grandmaster Keith Arkell got his first win in a 6-0 whitewash. On the same night in the Humphreys cup quarter-final, Stourbridge hosted Wolverhampton in a competition for players graded under 130.

Sam Bradley won, followed by a draw for Colin Woodall. John Loynes needed a win and the game was soon over with Stourbridge winning 2.5 - 1.5.

On Thursday the Birmingham division 3 team travelled to Warley Quinborne

John Foxall won with draws for John Loynes and Jeremy Humphreys, but an unexpected loss for Steve Jukes meant it was 2-2 with two adjournments.

Boxing legend Holyfield in Second City date

Boxing legend Evander Holyfield in Cannock with Bar Sport owner Scott Murray

Boxing

BOXING legend Evander Holyfield will be back in the West Midlands at the start of next month as the feature attraction of a sportsman's dinner in the heart of Birmingham.

The former undisputed world heavyweight champion will be at the Second City's Holiday Inn Hotel on Smallbrook Queensway on Wednesday night, October 2.

Earlier this month he kicked off his UK tour with a date at Bar Sport, in Cannock.

'The Real Deal' was one of the most recognisable fighters of his era, turning pro at 21 after winning a bronze medal at the 1984 Olympic Games. He knocked out Mike Tyson's conqueror, James 'Buster' Douglas, to take all the heavyweight belts for the first time in 1990 but retired after being defeated for the titles by Michael Moorer in 1994.

He returned and engaged in two big battles with Tyson, taking the WBA crown by stoppage in 1996 and then winning by disqualification a year later, after famously having part of his ear bitten off.

He drew with Lennox Lewis in 1999 but lost a rematch eight months later, before becoming the only boxer to win a version of the heavyweight title four times in 2000, against John Ruiz. The 50-year-old hasn't retired yet, either, last halting Dane Brian Neilsen in the 10th round in May 2011 although he hasn't competed since.

Before the evening show, Holyfield and Brummie former British middleweight champion Wayne Elcock will be visiting Birmingham Children's Hospital at 1pm to hand out presents to the patients.

Tickets to the dinner are £50, £100 and £150 - which includes a three-course meal – with prices rising for back, middle and front tier seating.

For more information, call 07976 842 383 or visit **www.boxfrog uk.com**

GEDDES STEPS UP FOR GOAL NUMBER EIGHT

St Albans Ciry 1 Stourbridge 2

AFTER suffering three defeats in their last four league games, this was a welcome three points for The Glassboys against a team that many consider will be in the promotion frame at the end of the season.

Both sides though had suffered a loss in mid-week and Stourbridge boss Gary Hackett reacted to the defeat at Hungerford by dropping Ryan Rowe, Leon Broadhurst and Jamie Oliver to the bench.

Stourbridge FC

Teenage defender Jean Kalenda was brought in from Birmingham City on 'work experience' for his debut, while Will Richards was moved back up-front alongside Luke Benbow and Paul Lloyd drafted in at left-back.

Pounced

The Hertfordshire hosts shaded the early exchanges, but it was Stour that took the lead in the 19th minute.

The Glassboys forged ahead when Aaron Drake clipped a pass forward through the right-hand channel area and City left-back Lee Chappell made a mistake in letting the ball run past him, allowing the alert Ben Billingham to get around the back of the defender and he pounced on the ball and drove quickly into the penalty area before drilling home a rising shot from a tight angle past goalkeeper Paul Bastock.

The home side responded with a spell of pressure, but Stourbridge defended resolutely and they might have added to their lead towards the half-hour but a Billingham shot was blocked for a corner. In the 61st minute a moment of madness from Bastock led to the visitors doubling their advantage. A long ball forward was pursued by the hard-working Richards. As the ball bounced up inside the right-hand side of the box, he jumped with Bastock and appeared to make a fair challenge with the veteran keeper managing to collect the ball cleanly.

However the 'red mist' momentarily descended as Bastock flicked out at Richards with his boot.

The offence was spotted by the officials and Bastock duly cautioned and a penalty awarded for his indiscretion, which was despatched by Sean Geddes for his eighth goal of the campaign.

The manner of that goal looked to have knocked the stuffing out of the hosts for a time, despite a flurry of substitutions.

With the game in stoppage time, there was some late drama as the home side reduced the arrears.

Substitute Harrison Georgiou fed the ball into Frendo and he turned and hit a left-foot shot that took a big deflection to leave Coleman completely wrong-footed with the ball dropping into the opposite side of the net.

Runners relay message of ultra race success

Stourbridge Running Club members that took part in the 3x10 mile JW Ultra relay race

Running Club

STOURBRIDGE Running Club had a fantastic result at the weekend at the JW Ultra relay race.

The event is in the name of John Ward, one of the founders of Bournville Harriers Running Club.

It is a 3 x 10 mile relay race along the canal towpaths from Stratford upon Avon to Bournville in Birmingham.

Stourbridge had six teams entering and out of a field of 20 teams, finished first. The winning team consisted of Rob Coleman, Duncan Cornish and Chris Blake and they completed the course in three hours 16 minutes.

The club was also placed second with team members Dave Sheppard, Andy Aston and Mike Anslow completing the race in 3:22.

Mike gets a special mention as he ran his leg of 10 miles in under an hour – 59:55 to be precise. The club expressed its thanks to team organiser Natalie Dellar for organising the event and making sure everyone was where they were supposed to be.

The club is now taking entries for the 2014 Stourbridge Stagger, a 10 mile multi-terrain local race, starting from Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge on February 2 at 10.30am.

Visit **www.srclub.com** for details on how to enter.

Tickets sell fast for a night with ace Keegan

ONE of Britain's most celebrated footballers is the star guest at an evening in Dudley next month.

Organisers Compton Hospice say tickets for the Evening with Kevin Keegan are selling well.

The former Newcastle United player and manager will be at the Copthorne Hotel, Dudley on Thursday, October 3 to raise money for the charity which supports patient with life-limiting illnesses.

The evening features a comedian, three-course meal and question and answer session with the double European Footballer of the Year.

Managed

Keegan, who won 63 England caps, later managed his country. He also played for Scunthorpe, Liverpool, SV Hamburg and Southampton and was boss at Manchester City and Fulham.

Simon Cater, corporate fundraiser for Compton Hospice, said "Kevin Keegan is a sporting legend. He captured the hearts of the British public."

Tickets cost £60 plus VAT per person or £55 plus VAT per person for tables of eight or 10.

Causeway make Vase progress

Causeway United 2
Continental Star 1

CAUSEWAY progressed in the FA Vase and face a trip to Earlswood Town on October 19.

Jack Pearlman headed in on 27 minutes to give Causeway the lead. Jovan Blake-Walker made it two before half-time. Anthony Robonson reduced the deficit on 72 minutes.

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